

# HORSE & HOUND

6 AUGUST 2015 EVERY THURSDAY

Jayne Ross on RIHS  
supreme horse  
Time 2 Reflect

## Vintage Hickstead

- Ross' unusual ride-off display grabs supreme title
- Brits falter in Nations Cup – is Rio team spot in doubt?

### VET

How early diagnosis can prevent equine blindness

### EVENTING

Juggling a family with four-star competition

### NEWS

Tributes to the late Tamarillo and Sir Peter O'Sullivan



## VALEGRO: BRITAIN'S BEST

- Isobel Wessels assesses his conformation
- Why he'll lead Brits to Euros team gold



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**EDITORIAL COMMENT**

LAST week was one of the very best to be showjumping and racing editor, with Glorious Goodwood and the Royal International Horse Show running in parallel and each fostering great stories.

There's always something magical about Hickstead; with so many venues now investing in surfaces, it is one of the very few international turf arenas left. But with that it retains so much tradition and history. Some horses just seem to love it there, one in particular being Bezie Madden's Cortes 'C'. We watched in wonder as the combination scooped their second successive King George V Gold Cup. He's a huge horse yet produces impressively fast jump-offs. They were back to their best after

*'The Rio pressure is now on more than ever — no success at the Europeans means no Olympics'*

an unusual blunder in the Nations Cup final round.

At Goodwood, Richard Hughes said his final farewell to the weighing room, although I'm sure it won't be long until he returns to the racecourse — this time as a trainer. Despite the relentless media clamour, he found time to write this week's racing column (p97).

Following a disappointing Royal International for the Brits, the Rio pressure is now on more than ever (news, p10). With only Dublin Horse Show remaining before the showjumping team is decided, our riders will really need to pull everything out of the bag. No success at the Europeans means no team at the Olympics — the next month is going to be crucial.



**Hannah Lemieux**

Acting showjumping and racing editor

@hannah\_lemieux1

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**COVER STORY**

# This week

6 August

*'I freely admit that the best of my fun, I owe it to horse and hound'*

Whyte-Melville 1821-1878



A guard of honour for retiring champion flat jockey, Richard Hughes (comment, p97)

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## CLASSIFIED

120 Horses for sale

Cover picture By Peter Nixon  
Jayne Ross on Time 2 Reflect









# Farewell to Tamarillo

**WHERE:** FEI European Eventing Championships, Blenheim

**WHEN:** 10 September 2005

**WHO:** William Fox-Pitt and Tamarillo

**WHY:** the pair won individual silver and team gold at the event. Last week the Team GBR stalwart was put down

WILLIAM FOX-PITT'S "extraordinary and unique" Olympic partner Tamarillo was put down last week (28 July) aged 23.

"Age had caught up with him," said William. "He lived to a good age. It is always a tough decision."

By Tarnik and out of the Master Spiritus mare Mellita, part-bred Arab Tamarillo was bred by the Guinness family in 1992 at the Biddesden Stud.

"He had a huge impact on my career," William told *H&H*. "He took me to great heights and really captured the imagination of the public with his incredible athleticism and personality. He was a character. He gave us great highs, and pushed us to the limits at times with his quirks, but he taught me a lot."

"He was a one-off, a freak in many ways. When the Guinnesses bred him they dreamt of a fabulous career for him, and the fact it materialised was fantastic."

Tamarillo spent a "long and happy retirement" under the watchful eye of Jackie Potts, William's longstanding head girl.

"He was in great shape right until the end. All of us will miss him hugely," William added.

However, Tamarillo's genes will live on as his clone remains. In 2013 Tomatillo, a colt, was born in San Antonio, New Mexico, but it is not yet clear whether the horse will compete, as breeding is the primary aim.

## Tamarillo's top honours

**2002:** team bronze World Equestrian Games

**2004:** won Badminton

**2004:** team silver Athens Olympics

**2005:** individual silver and team gold Europeans

**2006:** team silver World Equestrian Games

**2008:** won Burghley





# Fatal disease found at Olympic site in Rio

Ahead of the test event at the Rio site in Brazil, concerns emerge after glanders is found. Meanwhile no British riders will be heading to the event this week. **Pippa Cuckson and Amy Mathieson** report



**A** surprise glanders scare at the Deodoro Olympic horse park in Rio (pictured above), which the 2016 Olympic organisers kept under wraps until last week, has caused concern within the equestrian industry.

Team GBR World Class performance director Dan Hughes is at the Rio test event this week (5-9 August), awaiting updates.

Glanders is a deadly bacterial infection, largely wiped out around the world but which reappeared in Brazil 15 years ago. The Brazilian government has been criticised by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) chief Dr Bernard Vallat for not being "more transparent about the situation".

The British Equestrian Federation (BEF) was among the national bodies only advised of the scare on Friday (31 July), even though the first case emerged in April.

Glanders causes nodules and ulcers in the respiratory tract and spreads through contaminated feed, water, skin lesions, coughing and sneezing, aerosol emissions or via shared tack.

Sufferers are usually put down to contain the disease.

Deodoro is a military base, stabling army horses until February when they vacated the site so that the six-month pre-Olympic test event quarantine could begin.

The briefing note issued by Rio organisers said one of these horses, now posted

600km away in Vitoria, was diagnosed with glanders in April.

The authorities then undertook mass testing and in June, a further horse previously at Deodoro tested positive, with another "inconclusive". Brazil's agriculture ministry is testing a further 584 locally-based horses.

OIE has helped Rio with biosecurity arrangements and says there is no risk to visiting horses.

FEI president Ingmar de Vos added: "MAPA [the Brazilian ministry of agriculture] has confirmed to the FEI that there is no threat to the test event nor to the horses that will compete. We are confident that everything is being handled correctly."

There is no suggestion the equestrian events will have to be moved. The 2008 events were relocated to Hong Kong when Beijing said it could not meet biosecurity and quarantine requirements.

## No British horses at test event

BRAZILIAN horses only will participate in the test event this week.

"The national federations were offered the opportunity to send horses and riders, but due to the high costs involved, the national Olympic committees and national federations felt they could learn as much by being on the ground as they could by bringing horses, so made the decision to save their money for next year's Olympic Games," said an FEI spokesman.

A spokesman for the BEF told *H&H* it would be sending a "team of observers".

"The contingent will be made up of logistic and veterinary experts, as well as the BEF performance director [Dan Hughes], but unfortunately we will not be sending rider and horse combinations," said a BEF spokesman.

"We expect to gather vital insight into the 2016 Games, and will be taking every opportunity for our support teams to visit the venue as it develops during the build-up. We are very excited about the plans for the venue and are eagerly anticipating the countdown."

However, after the London 2012 test event the surface had to be redeveloped prior to the main event after being described by showjumpers as "pudding-y", so riders will be hoping for thorough feedback.

"We're interested in how the surface performs at the test event and will be watching this with interest. It's a very different surface from London, primarily as the London arena was a raised platform," said a BEF spokesman.

*H&H* columnist Graham Fletcher said it "wasn't ideal" that no British riders were going, but that it was understandable with budget cuts and costs.

"I'm sure enough research has been done on surfaces," he added. "In an ideal world we'd send riders but it is offset by the amount of money it costs. In terms of conditions, our top horses are so used to travel now I'm sure we'll be prepared."



## Showing

# Dismay as P(UK) entries fall

PONIES ASSOCIATION UK (P(UK)) organisers were left disappointed after a steep decline in entries for its summer championships (24-26 July), writes *Margaret Shaw*.

In its heyday, entries ran into five figures at P(UK) summer championships, but last year's list of 2,500 was drastically reduced to just 800 for 2015.

Opinion among exhibitors was that the loss of Stoneleigh – the championship venue for the past two years – and Horse of the Year Show (HOYS) qualifiers accounted for most of the lack of support.

Normally the championships are held in August. However, this year's date came just a week before the Royal International Horse Show (RIHS).

But after being told in November by Stoneleigh leaseholder Grandstand Media that it had lost its ground and HOYS qualifiers, P(UK) organisers had little time to rearrange.

In the past, HOYS qualifiers have accounted for around 70% (£46,000) of the revenue at P(UK) summer championships, so the



The championships had low entries

association has been left counting the costs this year.

"We are at a pivotal point and the last thing we want is to see the association fall into continual decline," said treasurer Darren Price.

"There is commitment from the board to continue to make the association successful and we are seeking feedback from our members about timings, location, schedule and cost."

Competitor Paul Cook said the timing of the show made it difficult to take ponies.

"July and August are very busy and there is only so much travelling ponies will take, so this year we took some youngsters [in-hand] instead," he said.

"It's sad to see any championship show hit hard

times, particularly this one because of all the heritage."

Producer Mandy Burchell-Small added: "We would probably have taken more ponies but the date was too close to the Mid Herts and the RIHS. It is sad the show wasn't better supported."

However, a spokesman for Grandstand Media told *H&H* that P(UK) was offered the venue and dates at Stoneleigh Park for its championship show, but it "chose to take the show to a new location".

"Before any decision to remove a show's qualifiers is made, we advise those with the lowest entries that its HOYS qualifiers may be removed if an increase is not seen," added the spokesman.

"We aim to provide two years' notice for those shows to address entries. Unfortunately entry numbers did not increase within this time frame resulting in the removal of the qualifiers."

However a P(UK) spokesman refuted the claim.

"At no time was the association given any prior notice that we could possibly lose them due to decreasing entries," he added.

• **For full report see p84.**

## Showjumping

# Row between FEI and new jumping league rumbles on

THE FEI has told *H&H* it will be "opposing by all legal means" the decision made by the Belgian Competition Authority (BCA) in relation to a new "football club-style" competition for showjumping, writes *Amy Mathieson*.

Last month the organisers of the Global Champions League (GCL) took legal action against the FEI over an "anti-competitive exclusivity clause" (news, 25 June).

The new showjumping league and team competition was masterminded by the Global Champions Tour (GCT) and was mooted last year.

It intends to boost prize-money to around €20m (£15.6m) and organisers hailed it as a "showjumping revolution".

A complaint was filed with the BCA accusing the FEI of breaching EU competition law. The BCA has now decided to suspend the

so-called "exclusivity clause" imposed by FEI.

"We disagree with this decision," added FEI president Ingmar De Vos.

GCT president Jan Tops said the ruling now gives the new league "a clear path to launch in 2016".

"I'm happy there is now clarity for all the riders, and we look forward to delivering fantastic competition for the enjoyment of everyone," he added.



## ARGENTO

John Whitaker's 13-year-old stallion has taken the lead in the July FEI WBFSH world rankings. Hello Sanctos was previously ranked number one, but has now fallen to sixth. Last week John said the horse would not be available for the Europeans (news, 30 July).



## PARZIVAL

Dutch dressage rider Adelinde Cornelissen has said she is likely to be retiring the 18-year-old Jazz gelding next year. The London 2012 silver medal-winner was previously pulled from European Championships selection (news, 30 July) due to lack of fitness.



## LIVING THE DREAM

The showjumper who parted company with Swiss rider Pius Schwizer last month (news, 30 July) and went to Stal Tops has now been sold to Victory Equestrian Sport, owned by Athina Onassis de Miranda and Doda de Miranda.



## U-GENIUS

Shares in the exciting four-year-old stallion have been sold to two of Carl Hester's long-term supporters – Valegro's co-owner Roly Luard and Anne Seifert-Cohn. The horse is by Uthopia and out of Weidyfleur II, Valegro's only breeding full sister.



## PIGEON ISLAND

Gloucestershire trainer Nigel Twiston-Davies' popular grey veteran, who won the last leg of a memorable treble for the handler at the 2010 Cheltenham Festival, has been retired. He will spend his retirement with jockey Paddy Brennan.



## Eventing

## Irish squad named for Europeans

THE Irish squad for the European Eventing Championships (Blair Castle, 10-13 September) has been confirmed.

The riders are: Aoife Clark and Vaguely North, Padraig McCarthy and Simon Porloe, Austin O'Connor and Balham Houdini, Michael Ryan and Ballylynch Adventure, Camilla Speirs and Portersize Just A Jiff, and Sam Watson and Horseware Lukeswell.

Five riders have represented Ireland at senior championship level before. They are joined by first-timer, Lucy Wiegiersma's partner Padraig.

A team of four will be selected from the six named riders after the first horse inspection at Blair, with the other two riders competing as individuals.

Reserves are: Jayne Doherty and The Only One, Joseph Murphy and Sportsfield Othello, and Patricia Ryan and Dunrath Eclipse.

## Hunting

## New chief for the Countryside Alliance

TIM BONNER is to take up the role of chief executive at the Countryside Alliance (CA).

Sir Barney White-Spunner will be stepping down as the organisation's executive chairman after three-and-a-half years following the CA AGM in September. The board has appointed Tim to take charge when he leaves.

Tim said it was a "huge honour and huge responsibility".

"I am constantly aware of the hundreds of thousands of CA members and supporters who rely on us to give them a voice. The Alliance will always focus on the core political and campaigning work it does best, but must also change to face new challenges," he added.

## H&amp;H

## Become an Equo brand ambassador

H&H is looking to recruit four brand ambassadors to represent its new event entry website Equo.

Equo is due to launch in early September and will offer riders the chance to search for equestrian events across the main four disciplines at all levels and enter securely online.

Packages for the selected riders will include a £100 per month allowance to spend on entries and training.

• Visit: [www.bitly.com/equoambassador](http://www.bitly.com/equoambassador)

## Horse world mourns Sir Peter, the 'voice of racing'

THE racing and equestrian worlds were in mourning last week after Sir Peter O'Sullivan died at the age of 97, writes Amy Mathieson.

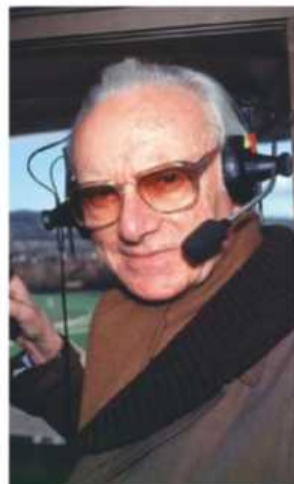
The "voice of racing" died peacefully at home in London on 29 July.

During his career the popular commentator called more than 14,000 races, including the Grand National 50 times.

Sir Peter enjoyed good health into his 90s — he even drove himself to the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe meeting in Paris in October 2012.

However, he suffered a mild stroke in 2013 and his health had been declining in recent months.

Besides being a great fan of the sport he was also a successful owner, winning the 1967 King's Stand Stakes at Ascot with Be Friendly and



Sir Peter O'Sullivan called the Grand National for 50 years

the 1974 Triumph Hurdle at Cheltenham with Attivo.

Sir Peter was knighted in 1997 and later that year he set up the Sir Peter O'Sullivan Charitable Trust, which has

raised more than £4m for charities during the past 19 years.

The charities include Blue Cross, The Brooke, Compassion in World Farming, World Horse Welfare, Racing Welfare and the Thoroughbred Rehabilitation Centre.

He was also vice president of World Horse Welfare.

Roly Owers, of the charity, said: "Not only has Sir Peter been a tireless supporter since childhood for our campaign to stop the long-distance transport of horses across Europe for slaughter, but not many know that he was also the inspiration behind the launch of our international programmes 30 years ago. These have since helped hundreds of thousands of horses in developing countries across the world."

## GUEST COMMENT

## Marcus Armytage



## 'The greatest of them all'

RACING and indeed the horse as a species, was lucky to have Sir Peter O'Sullivan — whose mellifluous tones provided a soundtrack to the sport for 50 years — as a friend.

In a golden era of sports commentating, from the beginning of the BBC's coverage of racing until his last call in 1997, he was, perhaps, the greatest of them all.

He was foremost a commentator, but he was no one-trick pony. He was a superb journalist and tipster for the *Daily Express*, an owner of two outstanding horses in Attivo and Be Friendly, a Francophile who made the most of his many connections to become a successful punter and, in later life, hosted an annual charitable racing lunch each November which raised millions for equine charities.

Many a horse or donkey around the world is

enjoying a better life than it might have done had it not been for Sir Peter, while his voice must have attracted more people to the sport than any other single initiative, particularly if you take imitation as the most sincere form of flattery as your guide.

He brought the great races to life, chose his words carefully and made the most of short silences, a concept many modern commentators fail to grasp. Red Rum's first and third Nationals, Desert Orchid's Gold Cup, Bob Champion bringing home Aldaniti at Aintree, Grundy versus Bustino, Lester Piggott's Derby winners; they all somehow seemed the classier for his call.

After I won the 1990 Grand National on Mr Frisk he sent me a note of congratulation and sympathised that I would have to listen to his voice every time I watched a replay. But through the months of hard training myself for that race it had been his voice I imagined in my head — "Mr Frisk coming to the Elbow" — that kept me pushing.

I kept in touch with him from time to time and he was always my first port of call for a celebrity tip for *The Telegraph* before a big race. He was compos mentis almost to the end, but I finally thought he had succumbed to dementia when he predicted a ridiculously out-of-form Treve would win a second Arc last October. He was, of course, correct.



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# Rio spaces: the fight is on

With the FEI European Championships fast approaching, which nations are in a race to qualify for Rio? Pippa Cuckson looks at who is under pressure

Britain's showjumpers must qualify at the Europeans to be in with a chance of retaining the Olympic title



**B**RITAIN is not the only nation anxiously awaiting its last chance to qualify a team for Rio 2016.

The Olympic principle of “universality” means that emerging nations often get a place while stronger countries languish at home.

But there is a strict limit of 200 horses in total from all three disciplines at Rio's Deodoro horse park — and the quota also includes individual riders from those countries not sending full teams.

Germany, the Netherlands and the USA are the only countries qualified in all three disciplines, as several of their historic rivals still fight for the chance to defend their London 2012 medals. Brazil, as host country receives automatic qualification for every discipline.



## Pressure on British showjumpers

MOST anxiety is attached to showjumping, in which just three jumping places remain for a plethora of competitive European teams that failed to qualify at last summer's World Equestrian Games (WEG).

Who fills these three places will be decided at the FEI European Championships at Aachen later this month (19-23 August).

Britain is up against in-form Belgium

and Switzerland, Ireland, and — among others — the Spanish side, who can always pull off a big surprise. Finland, the clear leader of Nations Cup European division two, is also in the mix.

Belgium won the Hickstead leg of the Nations Cup last Friday (31 July) after jumping-off against Switzerland and the already qualified USA, giving manager Dirk Demeersman extra confidence.

“Today [Hickstead] is the first time a [Belgian] chef d'équipe is in the luxury of my position,” he said. “The sad thing is that I will have to disappoint a couple of good riders who deserve to be at Aachen.”

Switzerland is breathing a sigh of relief that its 2012 individual gold medallist Steve Guerdat is free to compete after his suspension was provisionally lifted last month (news, 30 July), following positive dope tests attributed to suspected feed contamination.



## TEAMS ALREADY QUALIFIED

• **DRESSAGE:** Brazil (host), Germany, Great Britain, the Netherlands, Australia, USA.  
Remaining places: 4

• **JUMPING:** Brazil, the Netherlands, France, USA, Germany, Sweden, Canada, Argentina, Qatar, Ukraine. Remaining places: 3

• **EVENTING:** Brazil, Germany, Great Britain, the Netherlands, Australia, Ireland, Canada, USA.  
Remaining places: 3

But his London 2012 champion Nino Des Buissonnets and second string Nasa are still grounded. Claude Nordmann, Switzerland's director of international affairs, admitted this is could be a "handicap".

"We all are hoping the horse suspensions will be lifted soon," said Dr Nordmann. "We are very confident that the rider, backed by the Swiss federation, will bring all the required proof to allow the FEI to reinstate the implicated horses."

Ireland bypassed the Hickstead Nations Cup for the first time in living memory, conserving resources for its own Nations Cup at Dublin on 7 August, and Aachen.

Jumping team high performance manager Robert Splaine said: "We expect the European Championships to be hugely competitive as there is a lot at stake."

"Our preparations have gone well and all riders on our long list appear to be in good shape, and we approach the challenge with confidence."

Meanwhile in the Middle East, Saudi Arabia lost the region's Rio qualifier to Qatar, whose team now flies under the guidance of Olympic medallist and Global Champions Tour (GCT) supremo Jan Tops.

In the run-up to London 2012, Saudi Arabia pre-selected six riders and spent more than £40m on "made" horsepower. This unique approach landed the team showjumping bronze, but it has struggled to build on this result, with the Saudi Equestrian Fund reining in its budget. Abdullah Al Sharbatly (36th) and Sydney 2000 individual bronze medallist Khaled Al Eid (199th) are the only Saudi riders in the world top 200.

### Eventing worries

FRANCE and New Zealand are two major eventing nations yet to qualify for Rio.

Historically, the Kiwis have sailed through the qualifier for countries from Oceania (south-east Asia, Australia and New Zealand) — this time held at Boekelo in October.

But France, which lost its Rio place won at WEG following Maxime Livio's positive dope test, has to requalify at the Europeans at Blair Castle (10-13 September), where just two spots remain.



Maxime Livio's WEG disqualification means France's eventers are fighting for a space at Rio

These are also being chased by the improving Belgian side, by Sweden — who provided the 2012 individual silver medallist Sara Algotsson Ostholt — and by Spain and Italy.

Australia's eventers qualified at WEG, with a chance of upholding its long medal tradition, and its dressage riders gained an easy ticket by being the best — and only — representatives from Oceania in Caen, in 10th place.

However, Oceania's Rio jumping qualifier at Hagen on 25 August will be a tougher call. Only one slot is available, and the Kiwis and Japanese, aiming to do well as they prepare for Tokyo 2020, want it too. Australia and New Zealand will field teams drawn from riders based in Europe.

Canada gained France's eventing slot by default, but is smarting that Rio is the first

time it cannot field a full dressage team in decades, despite best-ever results at WEG and the recent Pan Am Games.

Brazil receives automatic entry as Olympic hosts, and so the FEI reduced the number of places available to teams from the rest of the Americas.

In dressage, Equine Canada is now evaluating the cost of securing two more athletes far enough up the separate Olympic rankings list to join qualified individual Belinda Tussell in what is known as a "composite" team.

Eventers are also able to make up a team in the same way, but showjumpers are not.

On the basis of WEG performances, Spain, Sweden and Denmark seem likely to secure the remaining dressage places available for European teams at Aachen.

## IS FUNDING AT RISK?

FAILURE to qualify for Rio could have serious financial implications for nations heavily reliant on state funding.

UK Sport slashed Britain's funding when the jumping team failed to qualify for Athens 2004. However, these parameters have since changed and are now measured not just by medals won, but by the number of potential medallists developed across all sports.

Team GBR World Class performance director Dan Hughes said: "We will be selecting the strongest possible squad for Aachen to build on the excellent start our new performance manager, Di Lampard, has made. Despite three Nations Cup wins under our belt, we know there is no room for complacency; medals and Olympic places in Aachen will be hard fought, and even harder won."

"But morale in the Team GBR camp is extremely high and our preparations could not have been more thorough."

The Swiss team's funding is determined by overall performance, so the country's director of international affairs Claude Nordmann hopes that failure at Aachen would not have a dramatic effect.

However, Australian federation chief executive Grant Baldock told *H&H* that after London 2012 the Australian Sports Commission put all Olympic sports on notice that those missing medal targets would be re-evaluated.

Ireland has a longer-term plan to build on Cian O'Connor's individual bronze from London.

Team manager Robert Splaine said: "The development of our international partnerships is a long-term project, and we are lucky that we have some exciting new combinations."

"The win of a first-ever Olympic showjumping medal for Ireland by Cian was fantastic for our sport, and a great endorsement of the support of the Sports Council."



## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Carl Hester, p28-29

‘There’s nothing like a bit of criticism to prove people wrong’



## ▲ RARE BREEDS

US zoo The Wilds has welcomed five new equine arrivals. Four Przewalski's horse foals and a Grevy's zebra were born at the Ohio park in June and July.

## ▲ AINTREE

Partnered with Everton in the Community and Riding for the Disabled Association, the racecourse has hosted its first disabled riding session as part of the newly-formed Aintree Community Programme.



## ▲ MATTHEW WRIGHT

The event rider (pictured left) proposed to his partner Victoria Peace on 23 July and she said yes.

## ▲ SHOWJUMPING IN LIVERPOOL

Bolesworth International's new show in Liverpool, taking place in January next year, has been upgraded to a four-star competition.

## GOOD WEEK

## BAD WEEK

## ▼ A YARD OWNER

Two field shelters plus tack and equipment have been stolen from a livery yard in Norfolk (21-22 July). The shelters took seven hours to be installed and were concreted into the ground.



## ▼ GOLFERS

The owner of a golf course in Salt Lake City has been left frustrated after riders galloped across the greens and tore up the ground with their horses' hooves. Police are now looking to trace the riders.



## ▼ DEE KENNEDY

The four-star event rider endured “the most terrifying experience of her life” when Chequers Playboy's bit broke clean in two on the gallops. Luckily both horse and rider escaped injury.

## ▼ A BATTLE RE-ENACTMENT GROUP

A saddle used in the First World War is among equipment stolen from The Anglesey Hussars. The North Wales group had the tack taken from a lorry outside the chairman's house.



## And finally: hitched on horseback

EVER dreamt of galloping off into the sunset with your other half? That's exactly what one couple chose to do to celebrate their special day on Thursday, 30 July at Musselburgh racecourse.

Army doctor Major Chris Baird-Clark and his wife Shelley married at the East Lothian venue while astride their horses.

The couple tied the knot at the winning post in front of their two-year-old son, Alex, and guests.

The pair then took Irish draught, Rosie,

and Arab, Mimi, for a gallop up the home straight and past the winning post.

During a three-year posting with The Royal Scots in Edinburgh, Chris would regularly watch racing at Musselburgh.

Shelley, who rehabilitates horses, said she was “thrilled” that the racecourse gave them the go ahead.

“It is the second time married for both of us and we wanted to do something out of the ordinary, which was just for us, and this was perfect,” she added.



## DIARY 6-13 August

### Showjumping championships

The British Showjumping Championships are at Stoneleigh Park, from 11-16 August.  
[www.bsnationalchampionships.com](http://www.bsnationalchampionships.com)

### Go eventing

The Festival of British Eventing is held at Gatcombe, Glos, from 7-9 August.  
[www.gatcombe-horse.co.uk](http://www.gatcombe-horse.co.uk)

### Pony Club polo finals

The Pony Club polo championships are held at Cowdray Park, Sussex, from 7-9 August.  
[www.pcuk.org](http://www.pcuk.org)

### Exmoor pony festival

The Heritage Exmoor Pony Festival runs from 9-16 August in Exmoor National Park.  
[www.exmoorponyclub.co.uk](http://www.exmoorponyclub.co.uk)

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# Letters



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## WELL-BRED, AND WELL DONE

Sir – On your showing pages (Kent County report, 23 July), there are two photographs of horses winning their tickets to the Horse of the Year Show, one the Cuddy supreme in-hand, the other the ladies' side-saddle.

These beautiful horses are by stallions who are father and son from the Etheridge Farm Stud in Dorset. Aunty Iris is by Roviris; Isle Bright by his son Aveia. What an amazing achievement for the breeders.

Kate Cameron  
Ilford, Somerset

## WHY RIDERS MUST STAND OUT IN TRAFFIC

Sir – Your analysis of whether coloured horses are less likely to be in a road crash (news, 2 July) reminds me of an incident involving a "vanishing" skewbald.

I was admiring my friend's skewbald pony walking towards me, when it just disappeared. It was nowhere to be seen. It had vanished before my eyes.

I shook my head and amazingly it came back again. There it was walking towards me; bright and clear. Then it happened again. It vanished!

Then it clicked. The Comanches chose coloured horses because the patterns masked the horses' outline; a principle of camouflage. A coloured horse can stand out in the show ring, but in a shady country lane with traffic it's virtually suicidal. If I couldn't see, what chance would a motorist have? Riders beware.

My friend now uses a high-visibility tabard.

Brian Osman  
Boxted, Essex

## LETTER OF THE WEEK

# How good will and friendship shone through

On Wednesday 22 July I walked into my yard, only to see my world turned upside down. There had been a break-in, and saddles, clippers and other equipment totalling way over £3,000 was stolen. I'm an amateur rider – as many of us are – and work extremely hard to save up for my equipment.

These "people" broke in, opened all the gates in the fields, tried to take a quad bike and, when they discovered it doesn't work, they looked to my locked and secured tack room. They were in there for two hours according to neighbouring CCTV.

But one of the most uplifting things is how the community – both equine and local – pitched in and how many offers of help I have had. The social media aspect was phenomenal. Information about the stolen saddle has been spread high and low via Twitter and Facebook, and I've had offers of saddles on loan from people I don't even know. It's been shared, retweeted, even alerted on police websites.

The good will and friendship and offers of help from the equine community deserve recognition: I thank you.

Leanne Carrel  
Windsor, Berks

*The writer of the letter of the week wins a bottle of Champagne Taittinger*



## IN PRAISE OF HI VIZ

Sir – I had nearly reached home after a long hack this morning, when a white van slowed down to pass on a narrow country lane.

The elderly gentleman driver stopped and I expected him to ask for directions somewhere. Imagine my surprise when he said, "Thank you for wearing high viz, it makes such a difference. Well done, my dear."

I thanked him in return and said I wished all riders would wear a high-viz jacket. We both went our separate ways, smiling.

What a lovely gesture by this driver; it has made my day and, more importantly, reinforces what most riders know about the impact of wearing high viz

when out riding.  
Jane Bradfield,  
Newmarket, Suffolk

## HAPPY SNAPPER

Sir – I would like to take this opportunity to thank a gentleman who spends most of his weekends, unpaid may I add, at BE events. Tanzy Lee is always there, capturing with his camera that magical moment when horse and rider step out on the cross-country course. He always seems to catch us looking our best (which isn't always an easy task).

Thank you, Tanzy.  
Natasha Dayment  
Holsworthy, Devon

## FAREWELL TO...

Christine White,  
1935-2015

Sir – Christine White died

on 3 July, just short of her 80th birthday.

She was for many years the British Horse Society's regional bridledways officer for south-east England, and did much to ensure that the rights of way for horse riders were protected.

Her permanent memorial will be seen by those driving on the M25 north of Sevenoaks in the form of an elegant, high bridge over the motorway, where she had refused to allow an existing bridgeway to be diverted for several miles when the motorway was built, and had insisted instead that the bridge be built to keep the bridgeway on its original route.

She was also an accomplished rider. She undertook several long rides, including from her

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home on the Ashdown Forest in Sussex to her daughter's home several miles beyond Exeter.

This led to her becoming an active member of Endurance GB. Although she was never successful in completing the Golden Horseshoe Ride over Exmoor, she did succeed in the one-day Exmoor stag ride, and for many years did well in endurance rides all across southern England, from the Cotswolds to the south coast.

*Alan White*  
Duddleswell, Sussex

**Dawn Wofford,  
1936-2015**

Sir – I was so sorry to hear of the passing away of Dawn Wofford (news, 23 July). She was such a wonderful person.

It was a privilege to have known Dawn and her husband, Warren. It is a very sad loss.

*Janet Macdonald*  
Ham, Glos



Dawn Wofford at Aachen in 1955 with Earlsrath Rambler

## NEXT WEEK



### DUBLIN HORSE SHOW

Showing and showjumping action from Ireland's premier event

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# 'The best of my fun, I owe it to...'

## Early horsey memories...

My mum put me on a horse before I could even walk. There's a picture at home of me sitting on the front of the saddle with my mum on her horse Souvenir.

## Watching...

*Don't Tell the Bride*. TV is switch-off time for me, and I love lighthearted comedy and "trash TV", as we call it at home.



## Looking back...

Doing a medium open regional on Wurlizer at Oldencraig. I hadn't yet learnt to cope with his rearing and got stuck at X – Mum had to lead me out. Kevin Sparrow took an awesome picture of him mid-rear, which I framed and put

up in my house the day he did his first grand prix. Wizzy is retired now, but that picture still reminds me of how far I've come.

## Remembering when...

I had a rather eventful prize-giving at Windsor this year after winning the advanced medium freestyle with Tantoni Sir Soccrates. I had to execute a "tactical dismount", but we had a laugh about it afterwards.

## Holidays...

I've enjoyed a girly holiday after the nationals for the past couple of years. My sister and I plus some friends, including Charlotte Dujardin, head to Tenerife for a week. I'm not good at just sitting there, so we do a few activities as well as lounging by the pool.



## ALICE OPPENHEIMER

The international dressage rider on girly holidays, being prepared for dope tests and eventful prize-givings

## Listening to...

Radio 1 and singing along (badly). I won't be quitting my day job any time soon!

## Biggest indulgence...

I have a dreadful sweet tooth, but I really struggle with my weight, so I have to be very strict otherwise it's a downward spiral.

## Memorable win...

Winning my first international class in Vidauban this year with

Tantoni Sir Soccrates. It's a special moment hearing the national anthem played for you.

## Funniest advice...

She will kill me for this, but Charlotte Dujardin once told me to "make sure your downstairs is well groomed when you go to an international show, in case you have to do a dope test"!

I promised her I'd give that answer if I were ever asked that question, and now I have.

## First pony...

I had a Shetland pony called Jimmy who was typical of his breed – really naughty.

## When I let my hair down...

*I don't often have time for a night out while competing, so when I do, it tends to be a really good laugh – ending with cups of tea at 2am.*



## My favourite pub...

The Chequers at Well – the food is amazing. We go there when we have something to celebrate. I'm also a fan of the Loch Fyne seafood chain.

## Worst date I've been on...

The guy was so mind-numbingly boring, I had to make some awful excuse to leave. I can't even remember what it was now, or his name for that matter.

## Competing at...

I love competing at the Hartpury winter championships as the atmosphere is incredible. For international shows, Rotterdam is a lovely venue, but I'm keen to go and compete at Glocks after the show they put on this year. **H&H**

● **NEXT WEEK:** Ryan Mania

**MY PLAN B:** if it hadn't been dressage...

*My parents insisted I complete my A levels before I started riding full-time. I achieved three As in biology, chemistry and maths and probably would have studied chemistry at university. Not sure where I'd have gone from there, however.*





# Outstanding Results

*Login Lucky Lad, Supreme Coloured  
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by Martin Wood*

*Photograph by  
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All eyes are on Ireland as the Dublin Horse Show gets underway



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# Understanding uveitis

What makes the body's immune system turn on itself, causing devastation to the internal structures of the eye? **Dr Andy Matthews FRCVS** explains

**U**VEITIS is a generic term used to describe inflammation of the blood vessels and vascular tissues within the eye.

In the horse, the disease can separately involve the front of the eye (when it is termed iridocyclitis) or the back of the eye (chorioretinitis), but in many cases the entire eye is affected to some extent.

The inflammation can arise from trauma or blood-borne infection, but in the horse the disease is most commonly endogenous – meaning there is no identifiable external cause. In these cases, evidence is mounting that the disease has an autoimmune origin.

This arises when the normally low-key immune responses within the eye – maintained that way to avoid triggering inflammation likely to damage the very sensitive and

vision-critical structures – fail to recognise these ocular tissues as “self” and mount an aggressive response against them.

What causes this failure to recognise “self” is unknown, but it seems probable that in some cases, infection can initiate the disease by altering the immune signature of the eye tissues. The vigilance of the horse's immune system does the rest.

## Is bacteria to blame?

THE infection currently receiving most attention as a likely cause of equine uveitis is leptospirosis.

In central Europe, where uveitis is reported to affect some 10% of horses, the *Leptospira* bacteria are implicated in up to 80% of cases. In the UK, the disease affects less than 0.2% of horses. The *Leptospira* types usually associated



with the disease are absent from our wildlife population (the most important reservoir for infection), contributing to reduced incidence.

However, uveitis was once very common here in the UK and its prevalence among cavalry horses around the time of Waterloo was about 5%. Interestingly, in the mid-19th century a law was enacted in the UK preventing equines affected with the disease from entering horse shows, effectively removing these horses from the breeding pool. This may be largely responsible for the welcome decline in the disease over the past 150 years.

Recent studies have shown that there is a breed-related susceptibility to the disease, with warmbloods and appaloosa types being particularly affected. In the latter, the disease can take an insidious course, frequently grumbling along undetected.

However, it is highly likely that there are more and as yet unrecognised causes of uveitis in the horse, with each causal pathway leading to the same outwardly similar clinical presentation – inflammation within the eye.

### A recurring problem

WHEN it is recurrent, the disease is called equine recurrent uveitis. This is the common form in mainland Europe.

In the UK the disease is less commonly recurrent, which could reflect a genetic tendency within our horse population towards restoring the immune mechanisms in the eye to their normal low-key status after a single episode of the disease.

The structures within the eye are highly sensitive to injury or disease and have limited capacity to recover

their original transparency or light-capturing functions.

Iridocyclitis, where the disease affects the front of the eye, is the most common presentation and is typically very painful. The horse's eyelids may be tightly closed with evidence of marked tearing, while the cornea may appear opaque or reddened.

This is a real emergency in every sense. The earlier the diagnosis, the much greater the likelihood of successfully treating the disease – and the far lower the chance of long-term damage in the eye.

Unfortunately, the insidious disease seen in appaloosa types and the form of uveitis that affects only the back of the eye are not particularly painful, meaning these conditions often go undetected until the eye is irreversibly damaged.

Once the initial disease has settled down, the eye is left with signs of “healed” damage. These can range from being only detectable on biomicroscopic examination through to blind, internally scarred eyes with extensive cataracts present.

After the initial episode of acute disease, there is no reliable means of predicting its recurrence. If the disease is shown to be associated with *Leptospira*, which requires laboratory testing of samples of fluid taken from the eye, experience from continental Europe suggests recurrence is more likely. Similarly, where the disease initially affects only one eye, there is no means of predicting whether the opposite eye will be affected.

Experience in the UK indicates that if either event has not occurred within one year of the disease first appearing, then the chances of these events happening lessen significantly.



Tube system designed to apply medication onto the eye remotely

## FAST FACTS

- Uveitis is the most common cause of blindness in horses worldwide and has been throughout recorded history.
- In its recurrent form, the disease is described by early European texts as “moon blindness”, because recurrence was believed to coincide with the lunar cycle.
- Showjumper Adventure De Kannan famously lost his right eye to uveitis after battling the disease for five years. He and Trevor Breen were runners-up in the Hickstead Derby in 2013 soon after the eye's removal, and the pair claimed a popular victory there a year later.

However, lifelong vigilance for signs of recurrence is required.

### Treatment challenges

EFFECTIVELY treating the acute disease requires anti-inflammatory medication delivered directly on to the eye, in addition to anti-inflammatories and pain suppressants given by injection or in the horse's feed.

Administering medication on to the eye is usually resented because of the pain, and failure effectively to medicate these cases is a common cause of what seems like treatment failure. For this reason, vets often fit a delivery tube through the eyelid to allow administration of medicines without going near the eye, and may hospitalise the horse for treatment by dedicated nursing staff.

Most eyes will get better with aggressive treatment, but some seem to respond temporarily or not at all. Frustratingly, that is the nature of this complex disease. In “healed” eyes, there is no means of removing the damage caused by the acute disease.

Recently, methods of surgically implanting medication delivery devices directly into eyes have evolved. These are used in recurrent disease to reduce the frequency and severity of episodes, in some cases eliminating them.

Where *Leptospira* is proven to be involved, surgically removing the vitreous gel from the back of the eye may help prevent recurrence – although most eyes will subsequently develop cataracts.

A blind eye, particularly where uveitis is recurrent, is best removed for the welfare of the horse. **H&H**



Scarring inside the eye is a common result of recurrent equine uveitis

# Aoife Clark

The Irish eventer tells **Catherine Austen** about the value of hunting, her degree in maths — and having her sights firmly set on the medal podium

**“I** think Ireland could get a team medal at the Europeans this year,” says Aoife Clark with her direct, unblinking blue gaze. “The pressure is off — we’re already qualified for the Olympics; we don’t have to play safe. It’s a really good chance for us — Blair, September, it may be muddy... I think we’ve got to let the handbrake off and go for it.”

A huge smile lights up her face. Aoife led her country to that Rio qualification at last year’s World Equestrian Games, finishing best of the Irish — as she had done on her championship debut at London 2012 two years earlier. In between, she had won Britain’s two most prestigious CCI3\*s, Blenheim and Bramham, riding Fenyas Elegance. Now she wants to step up the final rungs of the ladder to the medal podium. The 34-year-old has been selected for Blair with Vaguely North (Jimmy), the New Zealand-bred thoroughbred on whom she finished eighth at Badminton this year.

“I want to be in with a shot of an individual medal with Jimmy,” she says. “He feels better now at 15 than he ever has. He’s an adorable horse — you won’t find one who tries harder. He’d never say no; he wouldn’t know how to, and I think he’ll love Blair.”

“But I’ll campaign him lightly. He’s better slightly underprepared and fresh, and we want to keep the condition on him. He’s little — 16hh — and condition gives him the strength.”

## ‘A huge turning point’

JIMMY is owned by Henrietta, Duchess of Bedford, and his result at Badminton this year was a particularly poignant one for Aoife.

“I have so much to thank Henrietta — and Ginny Elliot — for,” she says. “The first time I was invited to an Irish squad training day was when Paddy [Master Crusoe, on whom she finished seventh in London] was eight. Michael Quirke put up a round of jumps and told us to do a real jump-off round with tight lines.”

“I was tagged along as last of the day, and we whizzed round. It was just easy, and Ginny [who was Irish team trainer at the time] really took notice. After that, I got the phone call from Henrietta about Jimmy. She had rung Ginny to ask her advice on who to send the horse to. He was at three-star level, and she wanted an up-and-coming rider to whose career it would make a real difference. Ginny said that if she had a horse, she’d send it to me. It was a huge turning point for me.”

## Learning on the hunting field

AOIFE was something of a late starter as a professional event rider. She grew up in Co. Kildare, and learnt everything about riding out hunting as a child. She did compete at two pony Europeans for Ireland on a sharp mare called Tell Me More she got as a youngster, but riding full-time was never an option as far as her parents were concerned.

“Education was much the most important thing,” she says.

Aoife got a double first in maths and classics at University College Dublin, but squirms when asked about this seriously impressive academic achievement.

“Maths at that level is more about problem-solving — you’re given something to prove or work out. That was the bit I found I could do.”

Does that translate in any way to her career now?

She says: “I’d say I’m an instinctive rider, not an analytical rider, and felt I had to catch up when I moved to England to try to make it as a professional [in 2005] on the technical side. But perhaps on the management side, the problem-solving comes into its own. I don’t like coincidences. I’m very careful about what we do with each horse and how it is managed.”

A common thread between the two phases of her life must be her drive, focus and determination to achieve.

“If I put my mind to something, I’m 100% and I’ll make it happen,” she says. “But I can’t work in two directions at the same time and don’t like doing something half-heartedly. I

had a few ‘proper’ jobs after university, but I reached the point where I thought right, I want to give eventing a real go — I want to see if I can.

“I came to England because it’s the place to test yourself. I knew I had a lot to learn, but the bar is so much higher here, and I knew I would find out more quickly if it wasn’t going to work.”

She and her husband Simon — a commercial helicopter pilot who understands just how relentless an eventer’s life is, because his sister is Polly Stockton — bought their house and yard in Middle Barton, Oxon in 2010, and its 14 boxes are full. The focus is Rio — via Blair.

“I’d be really disappointed if I can’t go to Rio and try to improve on my London 2012 result,” she says. “I don’t just want to make up the numbers.”

She never does. If Ireland is to win its first individual eventing medal since 1978, it is odds-on that it will hang round Aoife’s neck. **H&H**

● **NEXT WEEK:** Trevor Breen

## AOIFE ON...

### Her Rio horse

“Fernhill Adventure would be my number one choice. He’s very chilled out and would take the travelling well — and he’s a ‘wow’ horse. He’s good in all three phases and there’s more to come. I think he’s the best I’ve had. He chipped a stifle at Chatsworth so missed Bramham, but it was very clean and he should go to Blenheim.”

### Master Crusoe

“He’s my horse of a lifetime. We learnt together — he was one of two horses I brought over from Ireland when I moved — and he was my flagship horse. I owe him so much.”

### Fenyas Elegance

“The decision to give up the ride on her made a lot of sense and I’m totally happy with the decision. She was amazing and we won two three-stars, but she’s a strong mare, very much an alpha female, and I felt I’d done my best with her. She wasn’t easy to train; I had to find alternative methods to manage her, and I learnt from her, but how I ride and train the other horses is more the way I want to do things.”







# Move it like... Boyd Exell

The carriage driver on unwinding with a DVD, learning from others and maintaining focus and concentration

**T**HE logistics of competing five horses internationally requires teamwork, and Boyd believes this is often underestimated.

"People concentrate on horsepower and equipment and neglect the team of people. The people around you at a competition are important," he says. "They are your gauge and it takes as long to establish that team as it does the team of horses."

While Boyd doesn't find the psychological pressure of a big competition imposing, having the right entourage alleviates some of the stress.

"I don't think it gets to me, I feel I thrive on it to make me focus, although the people around me might tell you otherwise," he says. "But they know how I prepare and what I need to do."

He adds: "To be able to maintain concentration for the duration of a competition and not be distracted is what I've had to focus on. It's the dynamic of taking out four horses and coming home with a team that takes the most out of you." **H&H**

● **NEXT WEEK:** Anna Ross

## Look and learn

- "Steal with your eyes," advises Boyd. "Look around you and no matter what somebody's level is, try to learn from them."
  - It is also vital to be able to analyse your own performance.
- "Utilise a video camera so the feeling from the box seat matches the picture from the ground."

## Self-critique

- "A driver needs the ability to recognise what they are good at," says Boyd. "Are you a dressage or a marathon specialist? When you choose the type of horse you want for yourself, if you're a marathon specialist, you may be better off buying a dressage type – you help it and it helps what you miss."

## Taking a break

- Boyd has found eating and sleeping well are critical in maintaining his focus, as well as knowing when to take a break.
- "At a competition or at home I find I can stop myself overloading by watching a DVD," he says.
- "If I can't unwind then I'll put on *Rocky* or *Gladiator* or something similar."

## Fitness

- Boyd has always enjoyed athletic sports but finds that by working a seven-day week with the horses, fitness comes naturally.
- "We have 30 to 40 horses on the yard and I drive between four and six teams a day," he says. "I also windsurf and waterski on holiday, which are sports I grew up with."



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# Valegro

The best dressage horse the world has ever seen is an eating machine

“I saw this beautiful dished head over the door and this great big arse,” recalls owner Carl Hester of the day he clapped eyes on the young Valegro. “My mantra is to look for horses with the head of a duchess and bottom of a cook. He certainly matches that.”

“In the early days his movement — even without suspension — had all the right mechanics. He had hock action for the piaffe/passage and high shoulder action in canter, so you could envisage he’d be expressive,” Carl continues. “From being broken, and at every stage, he learnt everything easily.”

At a young horse demo, Stephen Clarke questioned whether the horse’s huge canter could be collected sufficiently for pirouettes. “I thought his canter was outstanding, and he’d already got a 10 in another class for it,” says Carl.

“Charlotte [Dujardin] and I decided right then that we’d start collecting that canter. There’s nothing like a bit of criticism to prove people wrong.”

Valegro’s heady career is well documented. Less well known is his penchant for eating.

“Interest in him is insane,” says Carl, “but for ‘Blueberry’ life hasn’t changed; he goes to shows, comes home and goes in the field. Grass is his big love.”

Around London 2012, the media were in overdrive, and offers started flooding in.

“Nobody really mentioned figures,” remembers Carl. “It was more like, ‘whatever you want, you can have; name your price’. We were dithering about selling, but after the 2013 Euros Judy Harvey and Richard Davison said that he is simply the best horse dressage has ever seen.”

“At that moment I told Roly [Luard, co-owner] that I didn’t think we should sell him after everything he’d done for us — and for Charlotte, his groom Alan and for the public. She agreed straight away. Knowing that he’ll never be sold took a real weight off.”

Since then, after reading about it in *H&H*, Anne Barrott has come on board as a part-owner. “She’s been a godsend,” adds Carl.

Retirement isn’t on the immediate horizon, but after Rio, team Blueberry will consider it.

“He’ll have been at the top of his game for six years then, and that might be enough.” **H&H**

• **Valegro Champion Horse (£20, Third Millennium & Profile Books), is published on 17 September.**

Negro

Ferro

Fewrie  
(by Variant)

Maifleur

Gershwin

Weidyfleur  
(by Heidelberg)



## Body length

“Just right” is Isobel’s assessment of Valegro’s body length.

“He’s naturally close-coupled, not long in the back, but not too short and stuffy.”

“He looks like he’d be easy to collect and has strong musculature behind the saddle.”

“Horses who are too short-coupled find lateral work hard and bending difficult, whereas long horses bend but lack strength, which can lead to muscle damage or weakness. Valegro’s perfectly in the middle.”

**16.3hh, 13yo Dutch warmblood (KWPN) brown gelding**

**Stable name:** Blueberry

**Owners:** Carl Hester, Roly Luard and Anne Barrott

**Breeders:** Joop and Maartje Hanse

**Rider:** Charlotte Dujardin

**Successes:** numerous championship medals, including individual Olympic, World Cup final, World Equestrian Games and European golds, as well as all three international grand prix records.



## Neck

"Valegro's beautifully set-on, uphill neck catches my eye straight away," says Olympic judge and grand prix rider Isobel Wessels.

"A horse with a good length of neck makes the correct connection to the rein much easier.

"His neck is perfectly proportioned and elegant; he has the ideal combination of muscle and elasticity.

"He's also quite fine and light through the throat latch area, making a genuine contact easier.

"Horses who are too thick in that area are too heavy in the hand, and a light neck/jaw connection can mean they are too light and duck behind the vertical."

## Back

"He has an excellent natural saddle position," says Isobel. "There's a natural place for it to sit behind his prominent withers, which suggests you wouldn't have problems with the saddle moving or slipping. That makes life a lot easier than a horse with a flat or over-rounded back for saddle fitting and stability. With Valegro's saddle sitting so well, it makes the rider's job a million times easier."

## Hindquarters

Carl was initially drawn to Valegro's powerful back end, and Isobel agrees that the horse's quarters pack a real punch.

"He has powerful hindquarters with a natural slope to the croup, so his tail is in the perfect place," she says. "A horse with a high tail and a flat croup can't tilt the pelvis underneath him, but with Valegro's conformation you can imagine him taking the weight behind and lowering the quarters.

"He has all the natural attributes to be what he is: the best grand prix horse in the world."







Britain celebrate their bronze medal at the 2013 European Championships – can they go even better this year?

# Too close to call

Britain could snap up the gold by a whisker, but the usual rivals of Germany and the Netherlands are hot on their heels. **Alice Collins** and **Polly Bryan** take a look at how the main players are shaping up

**B**arring some ungodly disaster, the podium will be filled with teams from Britain, Germany and the Netherlands at this year's Europeans at Germany's iconic Aachen venue. Predicting the order of those teams is a little more tricky.

Going by each combination's most recent CDI grand prix score, Britain's best three horses average 80.09%, while Germany's average is a just whisker lower at 79.65%. The Netherlands' average is 75.6%, but that's taking into account Edward Gal and Undercover's score of 76.16% at Rotterdam in June, which was uncharacteristically low as the pair have scored over 80% in this test before — and even as high as 84% last autumn.

So it looks as though Holland may well have to settle for bronze — particularly as they cannot call on their team stalwart Parzival; Adelinde Cornelissen withdrew him from contention citing lack of fitness following his sub-par performance (74.42%) at Rotterdam this season.

So who'll be on the top rung? One wrong step from Charlotte Dujardin and Valegro and it could so easily be Germany — Matthias Rath and Totilas are unbeaten

(although have competed only sparingly through horse and rider illness/injury) since August 2011, but of those 12 tests, only one has slipped below the 80% threshold.

Germany are bereft of two of their biggest scorers: Damon Hill (who is now a schoolmaster for his owner Christian Becks' daughter Jil-Marielle) and Isabell Werth's scopey Bella Rose, who is not yet fit following a hoof infection and a knee injury.

The nation's strength in depth is underscored by being able to pull two more plus-76% scorers out of the hat with relative ease.

Britain's big guns, Charlotte and Valegro, have an impeccable record, having remained unbeaten for over a year. Yet the last time they were beaten was by Totilas — at Aachen.

In 2014 the conditions at the show were hellishly hot, with Charlotte and Valegro's cool melting in the heat. Their 76.9% grand prix score was the pair's lowest since Rotterdam in 2011, when they were real newcomers.

They did regain their composure to post 83.15% in the special, but it wasn't enough to beat Totilas. And the two have never gone head-to-head since. Aachen is going to be a scintillating competition.

## ONES TO WATCH

The head turners



Portugal's Lusitano mare Batuta is showing phenomenal talent at just nine years old. She and Gonçalo Carvalho would have won at Víduban CDI5\* in March, had they not been disqualified for failing a drugs test. They're sure to win admirers at Aachen.

The old and the new



Patrik Kittel's Deja may be making her championship debut for Sweden, but the Silvano mare (above) has been scoring plus-80%. At the other end of the scale, Minna Telde's one-eyed stallion Santana has World Equestrian Games, Olympics, World Cup final and European Championships under his belt.

The super stallion



Keep an eye out for Birgit Wientzek Pläge and For Compliment, who are long-listed for the Swiss team. The 11-year-old Fidermark son was a bronze medalist at the World Young Horse Championships as a six-year-old.



## BRITISH &amp; IRISH SQUAD

## PODIUM PREDICTIONS

## TEAM

-  Great Britain
-  Germany
-  The Netherlands

## SPECIAL

-  Charlotte Dujardin on Valegro (GBR)
-  Matthias Rath on Totilas (GER)
-  Kristina Bröring-Sprehe on Desperados FRH (GER)

## FREESTYLE

-  Charlotte Dujardin on Valegro (GBR)
-  Matthias Rath on Totilas (GER)
-  Edward Gal on Glock's Undercover NOP (NED)

But a team isn't simply about its biggest hitter. Carl Hester's ride Nip Tuck has been creeping ever-higher with his scores, as this generous giant gets ever more au fait with grand prix. And Fiona Bigwood's delightful Atterupgaards Orthilia, fresh-faced at only 10 years old, will make her championship debut in her first year at the level.

Both Carl and Fiona believe she is sitting atop a plus-80% horse, but whether that sublime performance can be conjured up at Aachen is a big ask.

Sweden is also fielding a strong team, with the reliable Swede Tinne Vilhelmson-Silfvén riding Don Auriello. They were unbeaten in Falsterbo in mid-July, and can be relied on to pull off smart performances on the big occasions.

Her wingman Patrik Kittel rides the 11-year-old Silvano x Don Schufro mare Deja — whose 81.25% in the freestyle at Falsterbo heralds her serious accession to the world stage. This is the mare's championship debut, so the atmosphere may play a part in her results.

On the individual front, Charlotte must surely be the favourite for the two golds on offer, but Matthias can't be discounted.

Edward will be gunning for one of those precious medals, while the recently-married Kristina Bröring-Sprehe and Desperados topped 87.5% in the kür on their latest outing. Denmark's Anna Kasprzak is back and scoring big with Donnperignon too, impressing with 80.1% in the freestyle at Hagen in July. **H&H**

● **NEXT WEEK: Aachen showjumping preview**

## HOW TO FOLLOW THE ACTION

- **Sunday, 16 August: dressage freestyle 2.50pm-4pm** on BBC2 and 12.20pm-4.20pm via the red button (times TBC). Viewers using the red button will have the option of watching commentary-free
- **www.feitv.org** — paid-for service covering all sessions
- **For up-to-the-minute reports and updates from the team, special and kür competitions, follow [www.horseandhound.co.uk/tag/european-dressage-championships](http://www.horseandhound.co.uk/tag/european-dressage-championships)**
- **Don't miss our 15-page report, out Thursday, 20 August, to relive the action, read expert commentary and see the best photographs**

**CARL HESTER, 48****Horse:** Nip Tuck, 11**Breeding:** Don Ruto x Animo**Owner:** Carl Hester and Jane de la Mare**Best CDI grand prix score:** 78.04, July 2015**Worst CDI grand prix score:** 71.46, May 2014

The four-time Olympian could well produce a top-notch performance on this talented horse, with whom he has built a fascinating partnership. "Barney" hasn't been out of the top two this year, finally breaking the 80% barrier in the freestyle at Hartpury last month.

**FIONA BIGWOOD, 39****Horse:** Atterupgaards Orthilia, 10**Breeding:** Gribaldi x Donnerschlag**Owner:** Penny Bigwood**Best:** 76.8, July 2015**Worst:** 69.35, March 2015

Fiona returns to a championship team for the first time since winning silver at the 2010 World Equestrian Games. And what a horse to make her comeback with — all eyes have been on this mare's rapid rise to stardom. It will be intriguing to see what they produce here.

**CHARLOTTE DUJARDIN, 30****Horse:** Valegro, 13**Breeding:** Negro x Gerschwinn**Owner:** Roly Luard, Anne Barrott and Carl Hester**Best:** 87.46, Dec 2014**Worst:** 73.34, April 2011

The reigning Olympic, world and European champions and holders of all three dressage world records, Charlotte and Valegro will spearhead the British team. The pair have a excellent chance of scoring double individual gold, although they will face stiff competition.

**MICHAEL EILBERG, 28****Horse:** Marakov, 15**Breeding:** Rufs x Mitjulands**Owner:** Ferdi Eilberg**Best:** 73.6, June 2015**Worst:** 59.7, July 2011

Michael has campaigned the Latvian-born gelding at grand prix since 2010, and the pair became British Dressage national champions in 2014. With their scores climbing this year, this combination are a solid choice for the team, and the marks could go higher still.

**JUDY REYNOLDS, 34****Horse:** Vancouver K, 13**Breeding:** Jazz x Ferro**Owner:** Judy Reynolds**Best:** 73.88, June 2015**Worst:** 60.64, May 2014

This combination have been going from strength to strength over the past year, becoming Irish national champions in 2014 and setting a new Irish grand prix record at Rotterdam in June. This horse's performances are getting more polished, and there are certainly even more points to be gained.



# Not just a one-trick pony

A polo pony's talents are not limited to ride-offs and sharp spins. From Badminton to battle re-enactments, **Martha Terry** meets a few who have proved both versatile and resilient



**I**F you've seen the film *War Horse*, you'll remember a scene where thousands of horses charge towards machine guns. We marvel at the cinematography, and the beauty and bravery of the horses involved in the fight for peace in World War I.

But when they're not busy charging into battle, how do you imagine the equines playing out the re-enactment spend their days? Swap the sword for a polo mallet, the armour for some leg bandages, the Army cap for some flowing Argentine locks — you get the picture. Many of those battle horses could well have double lives as top-class polo ponies.

Fans of these quick-footed equines believe they can turn their hoof to anything. Many film companies use polo ponies for action scenes because they're biddable, used to having objects waved around their heads and galloping towards other horses. They've virtually been trained for the job.

But theatrics are not their only trick. This year's Badminton start list included Beanie Sturgis' ride Lebowski, a horse originally bred for polo, while other equines in the sport grace the hunting field, team-chase tracks and even dressage arenas.

## From field to fences

LEBOWSKI may have been a polo blueblood, but he made it clear from the start that he wanted out. The 16hh gelding's rider, Beanie, first saw him as a

two-year-old with the Baillicu family in Australia.

"He was OK tapping the ball, but if his rider leant over he would fire them into the ground," she recalls. "I loved him — he was the first horse I ever lassoed! — and asked to have him."

When Beanie brought this "scrawny" polo pony home, her mother was apoplectic.

"He was orange, bleached from the sun, and had a

**Above: former medium-goal pony Hatu's second career in hunting and team chasing has given him 'a new lease of life'**



Hatu started jumping in his late teens and now, aged 20, regularly hunts with owner Emily Johnson





hogged mane," says Beanie. "But the first time I jumped some logs on him, he was incredible."

Now aged 15, Lebowski has retained many polo pony traits, even though his metamorphosis into an elite event horse is complete. He doesn't enjoy dressage, although he's supple enough to scratch his hipbone while being ridden. He doesn't have a round, warmblood canter, so pings around the showjumping at a gallop.

Like most polo ponies, he's a doddle on the ground — Beanie's daughter, Ruby, could lead him when she was two. Beanie used to ask him to lie down in the lorry park before competing to make sure he was in a submissive mood, which he was used to from his polo training.

But he isn't nicknamed "Rotter" for nothing. He has an insolent streak, so much so that Beanie didn't dare shoe him until he'd reached intermediate level. His vet was sure — erroneously — that he had kissing spines, because he was so naughty.

"Even now he's 15, after two weeks off following Badminton I had to re-back him — lungeing and lying over him — otherwise I'd have been floored," explains Beanie.

Katha Wood's Chilean Boy is another polo reject who showed tremendous appetite for eventing, competing at CIC2\* with Ginny Howe in 2009. Katha's brother, Druids Lodge Polo Club owner and coach Giles Ormerod, gave the 16hh gelding to her aged seven after he showed no desire for polo.

"He has beautiful conformation and we thought he'd

do showing, but it quickly became clear that his destiny lay in eventing," says Katha of the thoroughbred/criollo. "He's a brilliant jumper with lovely paces and gave us everything we asked of him. He clearly hated polo, though. I once got a polo stick out and he was furious."

Katha explains that the key was starting from scratch.

"We produced him very slowly and were incredibly polite. It took four years to unravel his issues and change his muscles, with lots of chiropractic work. For instance, he struggled on undulating ground as he'd only ever been on a polo field.

"It took four years, but once he started eventing he went from pre-novice to two-star in two seasons," she adds. "It's just a shame he started so late — he would have gone all the way."

Now 18, Chilean Boy has retired from eventing, but loves hunting and may embark on a new career in dressage.

### Jacks-of-all-trades

WHILE Lebowski and Chilean Boy may have been exceptional event horses (and unexceptional polo ponies), others are jacks-of-all-trades.

*H&H* polo correspondent Aurora Eastwood hunts two Argentine polo

ponies, Cuervo and Juanita.

"It makes practical and financial sense to have horses that can multitask, rather than buying yet another horse who spends half the year doing nothing," she says. "Not all horses take to hunting, though. I tried it with two ex-racehorses who both got far too hot."

The ponies juggle hunting and arena polo during winter, turning their hooves to each sport once a week. ▶

**Beanie Sturgis competing at this year's Badminton with Lebowski — a horse originally bred for polo who has since proved himself on the eventing circuit**

## 'After two weeks off following Badminton I had to re-back him, otherwise I'd have been floored'

**Beanie Sturgis on polo pony turned eventer Lebowski**

"Polo ponies have impeccable manners," adds Aurora. "They stand, they go and they aren't remotely fussed by horses overtaking or bashing into them."

"And they love it. They positively bound up the ramp, and the different way of going and scenery do them the world of good."

Although Aurora gets some ribbing on account of her ponies' size and tack, she had the last laugh at a Hampshire Hunt meet.

"Most of the field were refusing a set of rails, which Cuervo flew," she says. "For the rest of the day, there were shouts of, 'Get a lead from the polo pony!'"

None of this would surprise Karen Huyton, who has produced a handful of high-goal ponies who return to her in the off-season to show, hunt and jump.

"I produced them to be ridden 'English-style' before polo, so they always have a job to go back to," she says. "One of mine, Nova, was very talented at polo but could have been anything for anyone. She could play chukkas with me one day, high-goal with nine-goaler Hilario [Ulloa] the next and showjumping the day after. The Argentine ponies tend to have a good pop."

Karen has also had success retraining polo ponies, including Carlos Superhorse, who now scores plus-70% in dressage to music classes with Sarah Jones after his polo career was curtailed by an accident.

"It's harder when they've only been trained for polo," says Karen. "They don't take the contact or leg, they don't canter on the left lead, nor do they trot!"

"Although Carlos has a lovely temperament and has coped with the retraining, his muscle memory makes it hard — but he is now a dressage diva."

Agnes Stamp started jumping Rainbow, her boyfriend Chris Crawford's medium-goal pony, when the mare was six. They now do team chasing and hunter trials alongside polo.

"Polo ponies are taught to accept pretty much everything," says Agnes. "We taught Rainbow to jump cross poles and logs out hacking, and she coped easily."

"Team chasing is the ideal extra-curricular sport as they can run with their friends — and you can have a lead," adds Agnes. "She excels at the tight turns and she



Aurora Eastwood and Juanita, one of two polo ponies she takes hunting

runs with a lovely, light contact."

Rainbow gets a few funny looks on account of her hogged mane — something that Agnes also finds disconcerting.

"I've got nothing to hold on to if anything goes wrong!" she says.

## An active retirement

WHILE Agnes wanted to teach Rainbow to jump while she was young — "I don't think it's fair to ask an old, retired pony to jump; some of them have had hard lives and deserve a well-earned rest" — many do learn later in life. Emily Johnson's former medium-goal pony, Hatu, started jumping in his late teens and now hunts and team chases aged 20.

"People said I couldn't teach an old dog new tricks, but he's been brilliant," she says. "You can tie him to the box, he's never nutty and he'll go first or last."

"He's also great at gates because he's used to neck-reining — and I can hold a glass of port with my spare hand."

Emily says the change has given Hatu "a new lease of life".

"He absolutely loves it, and although he was getting a bit stiff playing polo, it doesn't affect him out hunting," she says.

Val Ansell, of Film and TV Horses, has used several ex-polo ponies for battle re-enactments and jousting shows and says that besides "not batting an eyelid in a mounted sword fight", they really enjoy it.

"They come back from re-enactments on a high," she adds. "It's a waste for them not to be doing anything when they've finished polo; they are resilient and have so much more to give."

Val has one former high-goal pony, Josie, who is still hacking at the ripe old age of 40.

"She can do one-time changes and would gallop off if I let her," she says.

Not just a spectacle on the pitch, polo ponies are tough, sensitive and — as *War Horse* shows — would go into battle for you. Maybe Lebowsky will start a trend. **H&H**

## SO YOU WANT AN EX-POLO PONY?

**Age:** polo ponies often compete into their 20s, but some have had hard lives. If they are sound and willing, many take to new careers even in their late teens.

**Action:** Aurora Eastwood says that if you want a jumper, look at the way he moves. "Most ponies are bred to be close to the ground with low action, and they run really flat to help with hitting the ball," she explains. "If you want a multitasker, you need a pony who is bouncier off his hocks."

**Retraining:** most polo ponies have been trained to neck-rein and to go with no contact in the mouth, so need to be ridden accordingly until (and if) they accept it.

**Respect:** Karen Huyton says it's like handling ex-racehorses. "Have a go at everything and see what the horse has an aptitude for — it's not fair to force them. And have a polo lesson, to understand how they are used to being ridden."

**Price:** anything up to £2,500.

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Ex-polo pony Chilean Boy successfully evented at CIC2\* with Ginny Howe



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# Nana Dalton

Nana Dalton sprang into the limelight this year with a good Badminton and she now has a quartet of four-star horses. She tells **Ellie Hughes** how she juggles motherhood and horses — and why she's having a double mastectomy this autumn

**T**HIS year has been all about the new names. These are not just the bright young things, but riders who have been there or thereabouts for aeons; those who have risen to the top and showed the world the talent that has long been bubbling away in the background.

Nana Dalton is one of these. She has quested long and hard for success and now, aged 36, married and with a family, she is enjoying her best season to date, with a first Badminton completion and four top-20 three-star results under her belt already this year.

Most mothers don't have the energy to combine sport with parenthood — many scale back commitments for at least a year or two — but Nana has done the opposite.

She is now in the enviable — and highly unusual, unless your name is Fox-Pitt or Nicholson — position of having a string of four horses qualified and ready to run at four-star level this autumn.

It is a muggy July morning at Old Hearne Farm

Barn, the yard Nana (real name Susanna) rents near Haslemere in West Sussex. Lucy, *H&H's* photographer, is trying to orchestrate a family picture.

"Let's try and get you all in," she gestures, with a note of hopeful optimism. By "all" she means Nana, Nana's two-year-old son Toby, Nana's top horse, Absolut Opposition (Miley), and the dog. This might take a while.

Miley wants to look straight out of the door rather than stand diagonally across the yard as Lucy would like, Toby, who is visibly miffed at having his hay-scaling expedition cut short, is trying to squirm free from his mother's clutches, while Hamish the Labrador, who has sat so patiently until now, loses interest and wanders off.

Nana is well-used to these sorts of logistical exercises. "I never signed up for a boring life," she grins, as the camera finally clicks and we watch Toby dive straight back into the haystack.

Horses thrive on routine and so, it seems, does Nana. "Riding is the easy part," she laughs. "Life has to be





Above: Toby in his stable playpen with Hamish, and below, taking Romany Sayla for a walk



Left: Nana with her top horse, the strapping 17hh Absolut Opposition (Miley), two-year-old son Toby and Hamish the dog at her rented stables, and below, schooling Miley



more structured nowadays, but I like that, it makes me more focused."

She and husband, Adam, who has his own fencing company, live a two-minute drive away.

"I get to the yard around eight o'clock and ride all the horses in the morning, while Toby is either at nursery, with Adam or Adam's mother," Nana explains. "On Thursdays he is with me all day, so the horses usually have a day off and we'll go and do 'normal' things."

As for the usual concerns that parenthood can dull the competitive edge, Nana insists that having a baby has made her more determined than ever.

"When you have a bit of forced time out it gives you time to think and reflect," she says. "All I've ever

wanted to do is to ride at the top level, and it just happens that it's taken me nearly 20 years to be in the position to do it. I couldn't help but sit and make plans."

Three weeks after Toby was born, Nana rode two horses in the open novice at Chatsworth. At 12 weeks she was riding four in the CIC2\* at Barbury.

This "can do" attitude clearly runs in the family. Nana's older sister, Tricia Price, had her second baby between Burghley one year and Badminton the next.

"Trish was the proof I needed that it could be done," she continues. "People said to me it'd be a year before I felt fully fit again — actually I'd say it's been nearer two — but I knew what I wanted to do and my stubborn mind-set did the rest."

### Making it work

NANA was 17 when she began hatching a plan to turn her eventing hobby into a career.

"My parents told me they wouldn't make me stay at school and do A levels, but they made it clear that if I chose not to I was on my own financially," she says.

Having left school, every morning Nana cycled into town on her bike — a £10 eBay purchase — to do a secretarial job. In the evenings, she waitressed at her local pub and worked shifts as a hospital porter.

In 1999 she was rewarded for her hard graft with a team silver medal at the young rider European Championships with Romany Tinca, a 15hh mare who almost made it to four-star level — she was entered for Burghley in 2000 with a flashy warmblood called Ricardo Z, but neither made it as far as the cross-country.





Nana with the mischievous Miley, and his tiny half-sister Romany Sayla

There wasn't the money for a string of smart horses, so Nana began to make a name for herself by producing young talent. She had to let most go in order to survive, and some top-class horses went on to enjoy success with other riders, including Society Spice (who went to Badminton twice with Emily Llewellyn) and Romany Campfire (who took Molly Lakin from under-18 classes to Blenheim). More recently, Calvino II, who moved to Tina Cook's yard when Nana was pregnant, finished seventh at his first CCI3\* at Strzegom in June.

Now, finally, she has equine ammunition that is staying put — partly thanks to Romany Tinca, who produced three foals after retiring from competition.

The first, Romany Sayla, only just squeezed 14hh — though Nana still evented her to novice level — but the second, Romany Piper, had height on her side. She is set to make her four-star debut at Burghley.

Nana sold the third — "I knew I couldn't afford to keep all of them" — and, in doing so, was able to take on Miley, a leggy, jet-black gelding belonging to Katie Coventry (who later sold a share to Rosie Glaister).

"Katie bred Miley out of a mare called Ruffos Star that I sold to her. Ironically, she wanted a pony like Sayla, so I told her to use the same sire, Fleetwater Opposition — and look what we got!" Nana laughs, referring to Miley's strapping (17hh) physique.

Abbeylara Prince, a young advanced horse belonging to Emily Roser, and Elite Syncopation, owned by Sheila Jones, complete the four-star quartet (see box, above).

### Ups and downs

BUT eventing wouldn't be eventing without a hefty dose of lows to accompany the highs, and the joy of completing her first Badminton in 52nd place with Miley and finishing sixth (Abbeylara Prince) and 18th (Elite Syncopation) at Saumur CCI3\* was swiftly followed by the devastating blow of losing Uwald at Bramham, when the gelding irreparably damaged a hind suspensory on the cross-country.

The fact that he was her sister's horse, and that Nana had taken him on in 2011 when Tricia was receiving treatment for breast cancer (she is now in the clear), made the loss even more poignant.

"When they are such a part of the family it's devastating to lose them, but you have to take the rough with the smooth in this sport," she reflects.

## THE FOUR-STAR QUARTET

### ABSOLUT OPPOSITION (MILEY)

10yo black gelding

By Fleetwater Opposition out of Ruffos Star, by Ruffo

Owned by: Rosie Glaister, Katie Coventry and Nana

BE points: 127

Best results: 12th Blair Castle CCI3\* 2014, 19th Blenheim CCI3\* 2014, 52nd Badminton CCI4\* 2015, 20th Hopetoun CIC3\* 2015

Autumn aim: Burghley CCI4\*

In Nana's words: "Always looking for mischief; if he's bored he'll find a way to amuse himself."

### ABBEYLARA PRINCE (ABS)

9yo chestnut gelding

By Ard VDL Douglas out of Finnea Lady, damsire unknown

Owned by: Emily Roser

BE points: 198

Best results: fifth seven-year-old British Young Horse Championships 2013, 36th Boekelo CCI3\* 2014, sixth Saumur CCI3\* 2015

Autumn aim: Pau CCI4\*

In Nana's words: "A phenomenal jumper, exceptionally kind and Toby's favourite."

### ELITE SYNCOPATION (BUG)

12yo grey gelding

By Golden Bash out of Deanstown Lady, by Stan The Man

Owned by: Sheila Jones

BE points: 34

Best results: 16th Camphire CIC3\* 2014, 18th Saumur CCI3\* 2015

Autumn aim: Pau CCI4\*

In Nana's words: "Unconventional in many ways, but an out-and-out trier."

### ROMANY PIPER (PIPER)

11yo grey mare

By Crown Cornelian out of Romany Tinca, by Just William

Owned by: Sheila Barker and Nana

BE points: 94

Best results: 14th Camphire CIC3\* 2014, 12th Ballindenisk (2) CCI3\* 2014

Autumn aim: Burghley CCI4\*

In Nana's words: "A little bit frumpy, but such a kind horse who adores her job."

With talk of putting things in perspective, Nana goes on to explain that she carries the same faulty BRCA gene as Tricia. And in the same matter-of-fact way that she talks about planning babies around the eventing season, she reveals that a week after Pau CCI4\*, where she hopes to ride two horses, she is due to have a double mastectomy.

"It's highly likely that it [cancer] will get me at some point and I count myself lucky to be in a position where I am able to choose to take a preventative route," she says. "You just have to get on and deal with the things life throws at you."

Such reasoned positivity is typical of this genial, level-headed but ultimately tough competitor, who is confident that the best times are still to come.

"I feel so lucky to be earning a living doing the sport I love, with horses I adore, and with the support of fantastic owners and an amazing family," she says. "This is where I want to be, competing at the top level — and I am determined to enjoy every minute of it." **H&H**

Below: Nana's string in her oak Sussex barn at the yard she rents near Haslemere in West Sussex





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## SUPREME RIDDEN HORSE CHAMPIONSHIP

**1ST**

D STENNETT'S TIME 2 REFLECT

**2ND**

J COOK'S FLEETWATER XECUTIVE

**3RD**

S RAWDING'S CHAPLIN





# Ross speeds to fourth supreme

A classic hunting gallop turns the tables in an exciting ride-off for the supreme ridden horse title, with Jayne Ross and Time 2 Reflect denying the hack champions by a whisker



'I knew I had to pull something special out of the bag': Time 2 Reflect stands supreme ridden horse for Jayne Ross, the rider's fourth overall title here following victory on The Philanderer (2008 and 2010) and Comberton Clancy (2011)



## HORSE CLASSES

'In perfect harmony': Fleetwater Xecutive and Jordan Cook cement a 12-year partnership as hack champions before standing overall supremes



# Ridden supreme decided by 'ride-off'

Two classy champions go head-to-head, with Time 2 Reflect taking the honours thanks to a spectacular gallop

**Longines Royal International Horse Show, Hickstead, West Sussex**

28 July–2 August  
By Margaret Shaw

JAYNE ROSS gained end-to-end victories with Dianne Stennett's Time 2 Reflect, who went through the card to claim the Winston Churchill Trophy as the British Horse Society supreme ridden horse.

It proved a tense finale, as a "ride off" was needed to determine the winner when Time 2 Reflect and hack champions Jordan Cook on Fleetwater Xecutive both earned 27 out of a possible 30 marks from supreme judges Nick Brooks-Ward, Brian Williams and Margaret Shaw.

Jayne and Time 2 Reflect (Betty) are no strangers to this arena and they produced the

most spectacular gallop in a full lap of the main arena, the horse lowering and stretching as if in a photo finish.

One of this mare's biggest assets is that she can switch on and off in a flash, and when Jayne dropped the reins on her withers at the end of their spin, Time 2 Reflect stood four square, rooted to the spot with ears pricked as if to say "job done".

"She gave me everything; I couldn't have asked for more and she couldn't have gone any better," said Jayne.

Sue and the late John Rawding bred Time 2 Reflect, who is by Cameos Reflection out of Drombay. The exceptional eight-year-old was a good winner in-hand and she has maintained her form under saddle – first as a small hunter and then upgrading to the lightweight division. She topped a strong line-up of 26

contenders here before taking the hunter tricolour, bringing Jayne and producer Carol Bardo's final tally to four wins – lightweights (Time 2 Reflect), heavyweights (Bloomfield Excelsior), smalls and ladies

(Hello Dolly) – plus the hunter championship and the supreme.

With 80 of the best hunters in the country gracing ring five, the three weight classes kept a huge audience riveted. Sarah Smith's ride-judging was a joy to watch and Tim Wiggett was equally efficient assessing conformation.

But adding considerable spice to the main ring championship was the winning middleweight, Oathill Take The Biscuit (Hovis). Dawn Weston's 2013 Royal International supreme hunter champion was temporarily reunited with former producer/rider Danielle Heath due to current jockey Jess Cronk being hospitalised by a kick.

"It was the walk that did it for me. It is such an important pace and Time 2 Reflect moved up through the gears beautifully," commented Tim.

### 'We did all we could'

DIANNE STENNETT'S Hello Dolly was foot-perfect in the ladies and small hunter classes. The Parco seven-year-old has been a winner here for the last three years, her first victory as a small riding horse occurring in 2013.

"People say when you have a good mare they are special and we have two extra special ones in Betty and Dolly," said Jayne.

Jordan Cook and Fleetwater Xecutive were resolute in defeat in the supreme championship.

"We did all we could, but Jayne was a worthy champion," said

Jordan, who battled with a second great from the hack world – the winning large, Pearly King – to earn a place in the supreme.

"It was the whole picture of horse and rider in perfect harmony. The champion was a



Lisa Hall's Classic-sired High Treason impresses to take the riding horse championship

Pictures by Peter Nixon and Sian Hayden



## 'HE HAD HIS GAME FACE ON'

### Correct walk helps Starry Night beat Hallmark

WITH 22 coming forward for the Leeman Family maxi cob championship, it was not a foregone conclusion that leading lights Camilla Neame's Starry Night (Basil; pictured) and Heather Clay's Hallmark (Brandy) would have it all their way.

However, supreme showmen Robert Walker and Simon Reynolds had their charges in tip-top condition and headed the line-up from the word go.

With a good crowd watching, ride judge Loraine Homer rode every horse well while her father, David Tatlow, was thorough in his conformation assessments.

At the end of this two-hour marathon, Starry Night got the nod over defending champion, Hallmark IX.

"I am fanatical about the walk, which is the one pace that is overlooked," said David. "We watched the cobs for a long time when they first came in and thought the winner looked slightly more relaxed; he walked placidly and correctly.

"My co-judge said both horses rode very well, but

conformation is important and the bone below the hock of the winner is phenomenal. I think people will talk about Starry Night and Hallmark for years to come."

Robert Walker added: "Basil is a real showman, and while he puffed and panted with the heat before the class, the minute he stepped inside the ring he had his game face on."



pleasure to ride," commented Ann Hooley, who was completing her final appointment as a ride judge. "Fleetwater Xecutive has wonderful paces and self-carriage. What a wonderful way for me to bow out."

Previously ridden and produced by Simon Charlesworth, defending champion Pearly King is now campaigned from home by Sarah Carey and they never missed a beat.

Jordan and Fleetwater Xecutive have enjoyed a wonderful 12-year partnership, but even though the Pascal 16-year-old now looks the epitome of a true hack, when Jordan first worked with him he reared, bucked and lay down to try and decant his jockey.

"He was very tricky at first, but we have a special bond now," said Jordan, whose parents bought "Darcy" as a surprise Christmas present.

Oliver Hood brought huge cheers from the crowd when riding champion cob Chaplin to the top of Hickstead's Derby bank during his supreme show.

Sue Rawding's winning lightweight matched Ollie's humour stride-for-stride as he travelled at speed around the arena – Ollie doffing his cap egging the crowd on to cheer louder – and they earned 26 marks for their efforts.

Sue normally rides the Irish-bred seven-year-old herself, but recurring back trouble caused her to hand the reins to Ollie, who recently earned the cob tricolour at Keysoe with the compact lightweight.

Also going well to earn 25 marks was Lisa Hall's home-bred High Treason, who clinched the riding horse championship after heading his large division for Brogan Taverner.

"We don't over-show him, but he does seem to like it here as we were placed in our class last year. He is a very mannerly horse and such a good goer," said Brogan.

High Treason, an eight-year-old by Classic out of small hack Country Code, was successfully shown by his owner in-hand before going to producer John Harvey.

One of the highlights in his debut season under saddle four years ago was winning his novice class at the British Show Horse Association national championships. "We could see then what a natural showman he was," said John.

The final contender in the supreme championship was Ben Hester on the pure-bred Arabian winner Sameon Marouhk, who earned 20 marks. Ben bought the chestnut, who recently stood supreme at the Scottish Group Show and was 2013 British national champion, five years ago.

"He's a real showman. He stays balanced and in a rhythm, even when showing off," said Ben.

### Rupert heads the workers

THE working hunter classes are a highlight, and they attracted plenty of entries to take on Kevin Millman's technical and testing, but superbly presented, tracks.

One of the earliest combinations, Katrina Braithwaite and Kilderry Rupert, produced a rare fluent

clear round to win the lightweight division en route to the championship title.

"It was a strong track from fence one with a water jump, ditches, bullfinch and hedges," said Katrina, who bought her Cloneen Clover eight-year-old as a project three years ago and works full time in a coffee shop.

"Rupert lowers and gallops and loves to jump – he thrives on hunting and showjumping in the winter," added the Lancashire-based rider, who slipped the reins to let Rupert really gallop in the international arena.

Accountant Fiona Hirst headed the heavyweights on Dartans Barrack.

"He is a plod at home and likes hacking best," said Fiona, who was recording her first Hickstead win. "I came close on my nursery stakes pony, Robelle Autumn Ghost, who finished second – but that was years ago."



'He thrives on hunting': Katrina Braithwaite's Kilderry Rupert lifts the worker title

## RESULTS

### HORSES

**Pure-bred Arabian (C Mould).** – 1, B Hester's Sameon Marouhk; 2, S Rose's H Naharra; 3, C Singh's Silver Magnus. **Harrison Civil Engineering Anglo & Part-Bred Arab (S De Caprio, J Mead)** sml. – 1, N Donaldson's Whiteleaze Aurora; 2, Dennison & Helliwell's Rotherwood Take A Peep; 3, Y Selby's Archwood Ballerina. **Ige.** – 1, A Hewitson's Bingham's Toy Story; 2, A Bosworth's Sharien Royal Enclosure; 3, A Sellers' Holltess Hackett.

### HUNTERS

**Les & Nadia Edgar hunters (S Smith, T Wiggett)** lwt. – 1 & ch, D Stennett's Time 2 Reflect; 2, J Day's Pride Of Place; 3, S & K Igulden's Carnsdale Capability Brown. **mwt.** – 1 & res, D Weston's Oathill Take The Biscuit; 2, Mr & Mrs Jerram's About Town; 3, J Day's Grand Slam. **hwt.** – 1, Shades Of Grey Syndicate's Bloomfield Excelsior; 2, L Smith's Lord Litchfield; 3, I Susca's Glory Days. **ladies (A Collins, J Loriston-Clarke).** – 1, D Stennett's Hello Dolly; 2, H M The Queen's Barbers Shop; 3, S De Caprio's Double Take.

### RIDING HORSE

**Saracen Horse Feeds riding horse (A Levy, M Fuller)** sml. – 1 & res, J Marsden's Carrhouse Boston Legal; 2, B Taverner's Makers Royal Mist; 3, D Stennett's Casino. **Ige.** – 1 & ch, L Hall's High Treason; 2, M Wallace's Broadshard Simplicity; 3, V Ramm's Corbally Lucky Boy. **Nettex working hunter (S Smith, T Wiggett)** lwt. – 1 & ch, K Braithwaite's Kilderry Rupert; 2 & res, F Laing's Oulart Pasquellino; 3, S Scott's Opis Day. **hwt.** – 1, F Hirst's Dartans Barrack; 2, A Callwood's Mr Seniority; 3, P Cooper's Aughtnabroc Ruari. **Stennett Family small (R Gilsenan, M Maryan).** – 1, Hello Dolly; 2, Wycliffe; 3, A Buckingham's Designer Diamond. **Les & Nadia Edgar working show horse (S Coward, V De Quincey).** – 1, R Powles' Ballyshiel Quintin; 2, R Harthens Winterhill Woodpecker; 3, S Moul's Park Panache.

### HACK

**Alexander Horseboxes hack (A Hooley, P Brightwell)** sml. – 1 & ch, J Cook's Fleetwater Xecutive; 2, D Stennett's Fantastic Gift; 3, S Hanson's Barncroft Prince Of Darkness. **Ige.** – 1 & res, S Carey's Pearly King; 2, C Twiston-Davies' Whalton Forgery; 3, C Preston's Foxtro Oscar.

### COB

**Leeman Family maxi (L Homer, D Tatlow).** – 1, C Sheehan-Neame's Starry Night; 2, H Clay's Hallmark IX; 3, C Mackness's Country Seat. **Surrey Envelopes open (T Chalmers, J Stephens)** lwt. – 1 & ch, Rawding & Wilson's Chaplin; 2, R McCourt's Cob In Hood; 3, P Mortimer's Randalstown Rolex. **hwt.** – 1 & res, H Summers' Morrows Marksman; 2, C Bardo's Its Abracodbabra; 3, R Flack's Copycat.

### MINIATURE

**Stretcholt Equestrian Centre miniature horse (A Brickell)** 3yo & over colt/stallion. – 1, B Moss's Scott Creek Monarch Man In Black; 2, W Edgar's Apollos Dark Secret; 3, S Davies's Aesthete Jack Frost. **3yo mare.** – 1, A Cutler's Reflections Star On Cloud 9; 2, B Moss's Scott Creek Monarch Copper Penny; 3, Mr & Mrs Foulks' Donabi UK Uno Colour Fairy. **gelding.** – 1, P Armitage's Birchwood UK Flying Colours; 2, G Baldwin's Allstars Technicoloured Pestachio; 3, J Harle's Apollos Oberon. **2yo.** – 1, A Cutler's Kitana Randis Knight Scout; 2, E Yaxley's Donabi UK Uno Simple Magical; 3, F Watts' Windrush Mr Pinks. **y'ling.** – 1 & res, W Edgar's Apollos Angelique; 2, S Livsey's Ridgegate Timmys Amazing Grace; 3, C Leonard's Bubbly Boy. **mini.** – 1 & ch, Kitana Randis Knight Scout; 2, Reflections Star On A Cloud; 3, A Kemp's Aesthete Echos Golden Prince.



'He goes off any stride': Little Boss becomes just the second-ever working hunter pony to stand supreme, having pulled off a masterful clear round to win his open 133cm class earlier in the week



## PONY CLASSES

# Little Boss takes charge

A former 'Santa's reindeer' shows his jumping prowess en route to standing supreme ridden pony

**H**E may have been one of the smallest contenders in the Underwood supreme ridden pony championship, but Beat The Boss not only walked tall, he combined movement, manners and presence as he smoothly went up and down the gears for 13-year-old Susie Eddis.

As well as impressing the judges – Nick Brooks-Ward, Margaret Shaw and *Men Behaving Badly's* Martin Clunes, the British Horse Society president – for 28 marks, the champion working hunter pony won over the crowd, too, and was a popular recipient of the Dick Saunders Trophy as supreme ridden pony.

Once used to pull Santa's sleigh through the streets of Killarney, Boss then competed up to JA level in Ireland.

Clear rounds are always at a premium at Hickstead and this

meeting was no different, but Beat The Boss produced one of the best rounds of the day to win the open 133cm class before galloping away with the working hunter pony championship.

It takes two to tango, though, and Susie saw good strides to everything. Having won the nursery stakes here last July, the pair stepped up with ease to answer every question asked by Kevin Millman's rustic course.

"Boss has so much scope and goes off any stride. He's a dream pony to own and ride and this is the best he's ever jumped," said Susie, who rode the chestnut on England's British Show Pony Society (BSPS) working hunter pony team last year.

Supreme runner-up Ella Georgakis had little time to prepare. After taking the mini show pony title in an outer ring,

Ella and her first ridden winner, Barkway Precocious, made it into the international arena with seconds to spare.

However, if she felt any pressure it didn't show, and her

confident display included smooth transitions at every pace, polished off with an immaculate extension for 27 marks.

Having just claimed the show pony championship in the



Cool under pressure: Ella Georgakis and Barkway Precocious finish supreme runners-up

Pictures by Peter Nixon and Margaret Shaw



## SUPREME RIDDEN PONY CHAMPIONSHIP

### 1ST

J EDDIS' BEAT THE BOSS

### 2ND

MR & MRS GEORGAKIS'  
BARKWAY PRECOCIOUS

### 3RD

L BOWEN'S GOLDEN TASSET

international arena on Crafton Blythe Spirit, Ellis Taverner-Burns also faced a quick turnaround before the individual supreme show on her 148cm winner that earned 25.

Ellis has only ridden Penny Carvosso and Gita Jago's Strinesdale Matador eight-year-old at a handful of shows, but they stood champion on their debut at Herts County and took another tricolour at Stafford, qualifying for Horse of the Year Show (HOYS).

"I do love a grey, and she has such natural presence and a lovely way of going," said producer John Harvey.

Also in the supreme line-up was Reise Shakespeare and the show hunter pony champion, Thistledown Las Vegas.

"After being reserve last year I really wanted to win; he has an amazing gallop, so we went for it," said Reise. "We have fun at home cantering in the fields and that helped us here."

Reise and his charming pony are great personalities on the yard of producer Julie Templeton, and the pair are referred to as "perfect Percy and remarkable Reise".

Team Templeton enjoyed a red-letter show hunter pony day as

## 'I LOVE HOW HER MANE SHINES'

**A first-time RIHS winner claims the Pretty Polly title**

OSCAR FENTON made a winning debut at Hickstead when Oldacres Lilli headed a strong line-up in the Pretty Polly mini Heritage final.

Oscar is in his first season with the charismatic Springbourne Envoy nine-year-old grey who also carried Oscar's older brother, Ollie, to many lead-rein victories.

"We have fun ponies at home, but Lilli is great to learn the ropes on and I love the way her mane shines in the sun," said Oscar, who endured a sweltering class on the River Lawn.

While nerves got the better of some in the championship, Lilli remained solid throughout. Also displaying impeccable manners to stand reserve was the second-placed lead-rein pony Stanbeck Water Lily, ridden by Jack Ratcliffe.

The Pretty Polly classes stretched late into the afternoon on the final day, and Nicole Bowen claimed the last tricolour of this meeting when her winning small mixed height show hunter pony winner, Helsington Material Girl, took the tricolour.

The Strinesdale North Star 11-year-old mare was bought five years ago, the chestnut mare winning at Birmingham in 2011 for Nicole's older sister Olivia (intermediate champion) in 2011. Nicole is in her final 133cm year.

"Material Girl has the lot – manners, presence and an amazing gallop," said Nicole, who ably demonstrated that pace to clinch the championship.



Greylands Stardust won his 14hh class for Phoebe Price, while Little Briars Horatio added to the winning tally when topping a huge lead-rein line-up for Maddison Maguire.

Intermediate classes were among the strongest in quality and quantity, and taking the overall championship was Olivia Bowen on her victorious show hunter type, Golden Tasset.

Fit and raring to go after leading horses up the gallops at Olivia's uncle, Peter Bowen's racing yard, the Tasset nine-year-old cruised in every pace.

"His strongest points are his manners and gallop, and he smashed the hill," said Olivia referring to the uphill long side that "Tango" extended along.

The duo were placed at HOYS last year and are again Birmingham-bound in October.

Following a short break after that, Olivia's father, Leo, will probably claim the horse again for hunting with the Pembroke.

Matthew Cooper won the intermediate working hunter class riding Bellevue Tomboy.

The Laughton's Flight seven-year-old had done a couple of affiliated horse trials with Piggy French before Matthew bought him last year.

"I think he would have jumped round the track three holes higher," said Matthew.



Experience in the hunting field helps Golden Tasset gallop to show hunter type glory

## RESULTS

### SHOW HUNTER PONY

**Leeman Family SHP (B Ensten, J Ross) 153cm.** – 1, A Hunt's Carnsdale Sir Lancelot; 2, V Windsor-Phillips' Feizal; 3, L Pollock's Penskybar Mayflower. **143cm.** – 1, J Price's Greylands Stardust; 2, Dennison & Helliwell's Tindip Sundance; 3, Hobson's Lindeth Talisman. **122cm.** – 1, T Thomas's Parkhill Ronaldo; 2, L Slee's Annandale Maria; 3, L Bowen's Helsington Material Girl. **122cm.** – 1 & ch, J Shakespeare's Thistledown Las Vegas; 2 & res, S Goodwin-Brown's Treowen Ranger; 3, J & S Bennett's Nunthorpe Flash Dance. **LR SHT.** – 1, J Maguire's Little Briars Horatio; 2, R Godfrey-Fausett's Gryngall Picture Frame; 3, Knepe & Abba's Doolittle Tattibogle.

### WORKING HUNTER PONY

**BSPS WHP (B White, G Wright) 153cm.** – 1 & res, S Horne's Tinkas Gift; 2, G Worrow's Dancing Hero; 3, S Weir's Freckleton Maximus. **143cm.** – 1, A Augier's Allandy Gold Spark; 2, J Munnely's McColist Cowboy; 3, H Coy's Riversdale Magic Heart. **133cm.** – 1 & ch & sup pony, J Eddis' Beat The Boss; 2, S Horne's Claggan Silver Knight; 3, J Hill's Penhalogen Gucci. **nursery stakes (S Harfield, Z Pawley).** – 1, T Price's Precious Gem II; 2, L De Wesselow's Milford Fair Honeybee; 3, C Thompson's Glanesev Fairfax.

### INTERMEDIATE

**Jackson Fine Homes (Cornwall) Ltd Intermediate SHT (T Wiggett, J Hoyle).** – 1 & ch, L Bowen's Golden Tasset; 2, Lobb & Dymond's Celtae Courage; 3, C Try's Gone With The Wind. **SRT (J Hoyle, T Wiggett) sml.** – 1 & res, Mr & Miss Cooper's Tremar Mister Mole; 2, L Edwards' Llanarth Fair Play; 3, K Smith's Pendley Majestic. **Ige.** – 1, K Smith's Rathvaleen Gothic; 2, Mr & Mrs Coulstock's DP UK Nighthawk; 3, G Bolt's Whalton Dimity. **Ian & Shelagh Darcy working hunter (S Harfield, S Pawley).** – 1, M Cooper's Bellevue Tomboy; 2, H Horsley-Gubbins' Elias Melody; 3, H Sloan's Tinka's Flash.

### SHOW PONY

**Oggy Oggy Pasty Company BSPPS SP (J Loriston-Clarke, C Willett) 128cm.** – 1, J Van-Praagh's Penny Royal Little Pageboy; 2 & res, M Cartledge's Rotherwood Rainmaker; 3, S Hewitt's Pearson Black Jack. **138cm.** – 1, Gray & Ellis's Rotherwood Royal Flight; 2, M Collings' Rotherwood Just-A-Peep; 3, S Wood's Archwood Romeo Gigle. **148cm.** – 1 & ch, Jago & Carvosso's Crafton Blythe Spirit; 2, Mr & Mrs Andrews' Beauty On The Bay; 3, B Reik's Wilderness Early Bird. **P J Skips (Polegate) BSPPS mini SP (J Perkins, G Kobbe) LR.** – 1 & res, J Davies's Whiteleaze Secret Temptation; 2, P Ahern's Barkway Sweet William; 3, T Heathcote's Barkway Moon Fairy. **FR.** – 1 & ch, Mr & Mrs Georgakis' Barkway Precocious; 2, C Hughes-Jones' Chinook Magdalene; 3, J Bennisson's Woodview Shangri-La.

### PRETTY POLLY

**Heritage mini M&M (J Brace, C Whiteley) LR.** – 1 & ch, V Fenton's Oldacres Lilli; 2 & res, J Roberts' Stanbeck Water Lily; 3, S Walker's Firle Red Kite. **FR.** – 1, F Dymond's Amesbury Lucy Lockett; 2, J Van-Praagh's Blisland Echo; 3, T Spillman-Penn's Waxwing Typhoon. **Heritage M&M.** – 1 & res, S Cumbers' Waterside Black Prince; 2, Evans & Johnstone-Evans' Pumphill Fandango; 3, K Marshall's Winterset Nimbus. **mixed ht SP.** – 1 L Burton's Rotherwood Peeping Star; 2, R Frank's Spell Land Jack Sparrow; 3, S Goodwin-Brown's Cranborne Summer Song. **mixed ht SHP.** – 1 & ch, L Bowen's Helsington Material Girl; 2, I Hall's Annandale Phoenix; 3, R Cowan's Hindleap Oliver Twist. **Ige SHP.** – 1, C Rees' Tooreeny Lad; 2, J Thompson's Jemmo High Society; 3, M Lancaster's Political Spin.

## AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIPS

## Wycliffe sprouts winning wings

A world away from converting mills or a city desk job, a host of amateurs enjoy success in their 'other lives'



Wycliffe shows off his extension to claim the amateur hunter title with Hannah Binks

**M**IDWAY through their fourth season together, Hannah Binks and Wycliffe excelled in every pace to stand amateur hunter champions.

For the first time, a small division was added to the weight categories and Wycliffe headed a strong line-up en route to the tricolour with a proper hunter extension along the gallop strip.

With Hannah kept busy in the family business converting old mills into apartments, Wycliffe is based with producer Danielle Heath.

"I have him at home in the winter and he thrives on a variety of work. He is so anxious to please, when I get on him I just smile," said Hannah of Wycliffe, who stood second in the open small hunter line-up.

Anna Cole claimed the riding horse title on the winning small, Tawnmore Tariq, a Tawnmore

Snapdragon seven-year-old bought from Louise Lyons in Ireland just backed.

Anna is a personal assistant based in London.

"Tariq loves atmosphere and a big ring," said Anna, who also hunts and competes in dressage.

Country Seat headed his amateur maxi cob class for Caroline Mackness.

"He's grown and matured a lot, but lots of canter work on the gallops has made him light in front," said Caroline.

The weight amateur cob classes were well supported and Lizzie Oseman's champion heavyweight Ballyell Turbo added another tricolour to his tally.

The final amateur accolade went to Rachel Cooper and the winning hack Tremarl Mr Mole.

"This ground is a lucky one for us as we qualified for HOYS here at the Derby meeting," said Rachel.

res Neachell's Royal Oak; 2, A Hunt's Benjamin Bailey; 3, S De Caprio's X Factor. **hwt.**—1, J Fryer's Ducal Royal Emblem; 2, H Curtis's Lord John; 3, M Donnor's Cairnside Houdini. **O'Reilly Hyland cob (M Lawrence, J Hart) lwt.**—1 & res supr, S Holliday's Red Squirrel; 2, J Goostrey's Randalstown Brannigan; 3, D Clark's Cromptons Rolo. **hwt.**—1 & supr, L Oseman's Ballyell Turbo; 2, T Nicholls' Corbally; 3, R Dilcock-Thomas's Corrigan II. **Leeman maxi (J Poole, P Crafts).**—1, C Mackness' Country Seat; 2, K Gillam's Hortons Maclaren; 3, A Strak's Rock On Robbie.

## COMMENT

Katie Jerram



## 'Amateurs can beat the pros'

**I** have said before in this column that a championship is a separate class and you have to find something extra. By definition, a supreme championship takes it to the limit, as this year's Royal International proved.

All credit to Jayne Ross on supreme champion Time 2 Reflect — but I know she'll agree that Jordan Cook, reserve on his small hack, Fleetwater Xecutive, gave her a close run for her money after they finished on joint marks and prompted a two-horse ride-off.

As an amateur, Jordan brought this horse through from the Search For A Star series and then served his professional "apprenticeship" with Pearl Underwood. He's worked hard and should be an inspiration to all amateurs dreaming of making showing a career and hitting the big time.

Congratulations, too, to the Eddis family and their supreme pony, the 133cm working hunter Beat The Boss. It's rare for a worker to take this title, especially in such strong company.

The horse working hunter champions, Katrina Braithwaite on Kilderry Rupert, deserved their accolade. They jumped a fabulous clear and the horse has a great attitude. Katrina produces him from home — more proof that amateurs can beat professionals.

**Coping with change**  
BRITISH Skewbald and Piebald Association day saw a

*'Changes always spark some complaints'*

total of 245 entries; the smallest class had 18 forward and the largest, 47. Some classes did their go-round in one ring, then were switched to another for the judge's ride section. I hear some riders felt this unsettled their horses, but it kept classes running to time.

At this level, horses should adapt to different surroundings and I'm told the second ring was quieter — which should have been an advantage. Changes always spark some complaints, but you must have new ideas and I bet that next year, riders will accept the set-up. The alternative might have been to cut down on the number of qualifying places, which would have been far more unpopular.

The Ponies (UK) Dalkeith young riders M&M classes give young riders the chance to compete within limited age groups, without adults. Apparently some competitors would be happier if a marks system was used, so riders have a better idea of what judges were looking for.

Riders get used to the British Show Pony Society and National Pony Society marks systems, and many amateurs tell me they like to see where they can improve their ride marks. I grew up in the days before marks, so it isn't something I get hot under the collar about.

As a judge, it can be useful to make notes when you have a big class, so you don't miss entrants who deserve to be moved up. But at a show of this calibre, top judges are quite capable of working without marks — though organisers might want to think about it if there's sufficient disquiet.

Finally, we should thank the stewards and officials; too often they are unsung heroes. **H&H**



## COLOURED AND NATIVES



'He dug deep when it mattered':  
Login Lucky Lad stands coloured  
supreme for Michaela Wood

# Lucky digs deep

Michaela Wood proves she knows how to pick a good 'un, while  
Jonny Stevens' Fell stallion triumphs in a borrowed bridle

**M**ICHAELA WOOD is no stranger to winning titles, but she gained one of her most satisfying victories when Login Lucky Lad clinched the supreme coloured championship at the end of 11 hours of coloured classes.

"Lucky loves performing and he just gave more and more as the day went on. He pinged along with his ears pricked and dug deep when it mattered in the championship," said Michaela, who first saw the traditional 10-year-old piebald gelding competing with Lucinda Elliott.

"I asked his previous owner, Lyndsey Birtwell, if I could have first refusal if she sold him and one day a message popped up on Facebook."

Terri Gregson and Walstead Pageboy (Fred) claimed the Ponies (UK) M&M title following a stunning gallop in the international arena.

After topping his open M&M class here last July, the Atlantic Prince 11-year-old Connemara

finished his 2014 season on a high by winning at HOYS.

"Fred has the most fantastic temperament and he's a big mover," said Terri. "He's a really fun pony at home and he fits in well with my schedule when I have outside rides."

### Littletree wins big

JONNY STEVENS maintained his winning form here when claiming the open Heritage title riding Littletree Limited Edition.

Jonny has capably brought the Fell stallion on from being a "baby novice".

"Stallions have good days and bad ones, but he was definitely on a good one today," said Jonny, who won here last year riding The Queen's Balmoral Erica. "The camber of the River Lawn ring can make it difficult and a set show proved quite tricky, but Littletree Limited Edition has great rhythmical movement."

"We've had some good wins, but this has to be one of the best," added Jonny, whose mount

remained foot-perfect throughout after overcoming an anxious setback.

"I tried Limited Edition in a double bridle for the first time at Ponies (UK), which worked well and I decided to stick to that. But I left the bridle at home and had to borrow one here."

Samuel Bentley recorded his first Hickstead win aboard his mother Nicola's winning lead-rein pony Ravenshead Caradog, who went on to stand mini Heritage champion.

The delightful six-year-old was gelded only a year ago and seven-year-old Samuel has enjoyed lots of wins and places in their first season together, the pair standing champion at BSPS Area 16.

Christina Gillett produces the pony and Samuel rides him every week off the lead-rein.

"We have fun going across the fields; he can be quite cheeky, but he's always a nice boy for me," said Samuel.

Amy Smith and her 2014 HOYS winner Laburnum Richard

## RESULTS

### COLOURED

Howden Insurance Brokers Ltd BSPA pony (J Hoyle, K Wilson) sml plaited.- 1, B Garner's Millpond Looks The Business; 2, E Turpin's Maplebridge Good Friday; 3, C Carnall's The Longhouse Dimension. **native/traditional sml.- 1** & jnr ch, K Colosso's Wulfstan Bubblicious; 2, A Plumb's Plumbuck Bunny Squiggle; 3, S Harrison's Hello Dolly. **lge plaited pony.- 1**, S Harrison's Lostock Up To Date; 2, F Dymond's Master Dancer; 3, M Sibthorpe-Musk's Trousers. **lge native/traditional.- 1**, ch & supr, M Wood's Login Lucky Lad; 2 & res, D Kersely's Tiger Tim; 3 & ch amateur, M Cuerden's Del Boy V. **BSPA horse (P Sims, J Dorman) lwt plaited.- 1**, D Bennett's A Remarkable Quest; 2, C Bardo's Carnaby Street Toy; 3 & am res, H Patterson's Shybon Bean Dance. **mwt/hwt.- 1**, ch & res supr, K Colosso's Shear Impulse; 2 & res, C Bardo's Aidenfield Rupert; 3, K Colosso's The Handsome Traveller. **native/cob/trad.- 1**, S Hollinshead's Colour Coded; 2, B Malim's Look Now; 3, L Cross's Francil Silas.

### M&M

Ponies (UK) Dalkeith young riders M&M (P Cook, J Grummitt) sml breeds.- 1, J Van Praagh's Blisland Echo; 2, P Starkie's Pumphill Rasputin; 3, S Linney's Gipsyville Flashman. **amateur rider.- 1**, L Stapleton's Marleydenes Nasha; 2, L Stockley's Murthwaite Oliver; 3, S Cumbers' Waterside Black Prince. **intermediate.- 1** & ch, T Gregson's Walstead Pageboy; 2 & res, J Hawkins' Elmore Loch Ryan; 3, R Penny's Townend Schubert. **lge.- 1**, N Evans' Kilpatrick Kestrel; 2, P Starkie's Townend Faithful; 3, L Leake's Sauvey Golden Condor. **NPS/NAF M&M WHP (J Paterson, A Robertson) 122cm.- 1** & res, T Heathcote's Roseberry Lullaby; 2, E Darbyshire's Brynrodyn Darius; 3, S Hughes' Pumphill Buckthorn. **133cm.- 1**, Mrs Darlington's Tynwydd Good Friday; 2, M Burnett's Stockham Secret Envoy; 3, A Bebbington's Rushmoor Sunrise. **143cm.- 1**, C Harrison's Fuzley Charaide; 2, S Andree-Parsons' Sabina Gold Sovereign; 3, J Cooper's Starcrest Mel Aur. **exc 143cm.- 1** & ch, A Smith's Laburnum Richard; 2, F Aston's Nimbus Blaise; 3, H Horsley-Gubbins' Hazelrock Rebellion. **TAAS BSPS Heritage M&M (C Pearsall, N Shuttleworth) sml breeds.- 1** & res, Rossall & Wright's Treworgan Tawny Owl; 2, P Starkie's Pumphill Rasputin; 3, A Stevens' Brinleyview Camanchee. **Welsh A&B.- 1**, H Skirton's Moelview Prince Consort; 2, K Marshall's Wintersend Nimbus; 3, Mrs Grot's Cadlan Valley Busby. **New Forest/Connemara.- 1**, E Boardman's Dooneen Frederick; 2, T Gregson's Walstead Pageboy; 3, M Whiteford's Fuisneig Boy. **Fells/Dales/Highlands.- 1** & ch, L Stevens' Littletree Limited Edition; 2, Mrs Wigley's Greenholme Warbler; 3, M Stanford's Benbreac Of Croila. **Welsh C&D.- 1**, P Steeples' Morry Imari; 2, M Wood's Swchyrhafod Brenin; 3, G Rhodes' Taffechan Miss Money Penny. **BSPS Heritage mini M&M (R Newman, G Wright) LR.- 1** & ch, N Bentley's Ravenshead Caradog; 2 & res, V Wharton's Wenden Choice; 3, P Watson's Wydean Sinatra. **FR.- 1**, K Kozersky's Hisley Calypso; 2, H Grot's Colne Tulip; 3, Z Holmes' Glededale Mumbo Jumbo.

claimed the NPS/NAF M&M working hunter pony tricolour at the end of a marathon session in ring five.

Amy bought her Rynn Richard eight-year-old from Clifden Connemara sales in Ireland five years ago as a project to sell on, but decided to keep him.

"He always seems to go well in an indoor ring like Birmingham," said Amy, who was set to travel to Dublin Show immediately after the RIHS as part of the British Connemara Pony Society's contingent competing in the inaugural team competition at Ballsbridge.

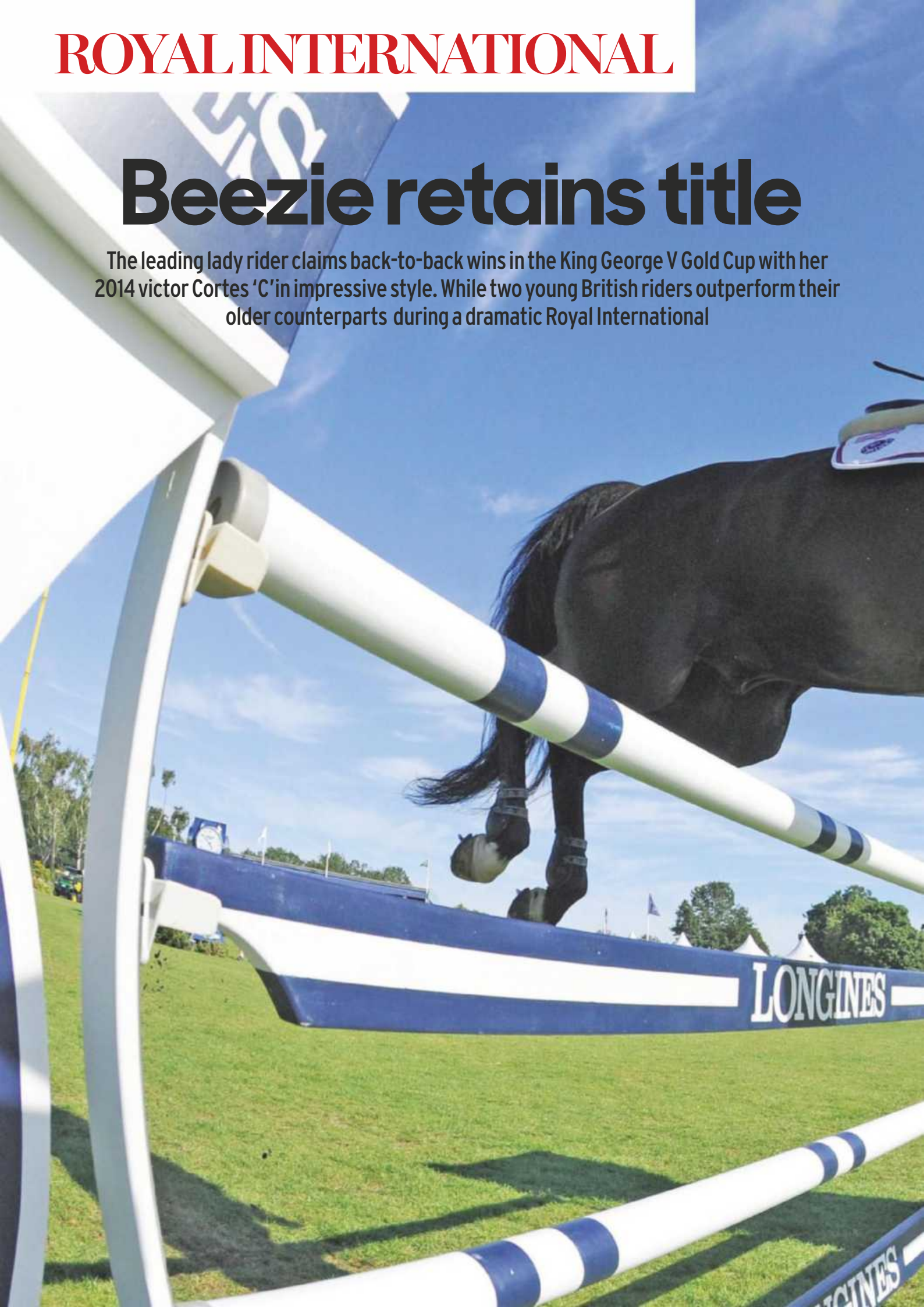
"This is the first time I have ridden Richard around the working hunter course at the Royal International, but he felt the best ever."

"It's been a good warm-up for next week." **H&H**

ROYAL INTERNATIONAL

# Beezie retains title

The leading lady rider claims back-to-back wins in the King George V Gold Cup with her 2014 victor Cortes 'C' in impressive style. While two young British riders outperform their older counterparts during a dramatic Royal International





KING GEORGE V  
GOLD CUP

**1st**

Beezie Madden  
on Cortes 'C' (USA)

**2nd**

Penelope Leprevost on  
Flora De Mariposa (FRA)

**3rd**

Jur Vrieling  
on Vdl Zirocco Blue N.O.P (NED)







Edited by

Hannah Lemieux

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DO YOU HAVE A SHOWJUMPING STORY?

Email: hannah.lemieux@timeinc.com

## KING GEORGE V GOLD CUP



Jessica Mendoza and Spirit T finish best of the Brits in their first King George V Gold Cup, after a gutsy jump-off round

# Madden extends King George reign

**Longines Royal International Horse Show, Hickstead, West Sussex**

28 July–1 August

By Sarah Radford

**B**EEZIE MADDEN cemented her role as the Royal International's first lady of Hickstead, writing herself into the history books with a second consecutive Longines King George V Gold Cup win.

Last year, the 51-year-old American became the first woman to claim this title since the class was opened up to both genders in 2008.

This year, she partnered her incredible gelding Cortes 'C' to the first successive victory for a combination since 1962.

"I'm happy to keep breaking the records," said Beezie.

"The last time this happened was before I was born and I can't say that very often any more!"

Motivated by a disappointing performance in Friday's Furusiyya FEI Nations Cup, the New York rider was on focused

form with her prolific 13-year-old championship partner.

She produced the second of six clears round Kelvin Bywater's optimum first-round track – which served as a suitably gruelling contest for this prestigious, 104-year-old grand prix.

Some hard-to-judge verticals took their toll, with the most faults elicited by the demanding double of gates [see box], while the Hickstead planks jumped three from home were also exacting.

In the jump-off, trailblazing Dutch rider Jur Vrieling and VDL Zirocco Blue NOP jumped a classy but conservative clear round that was immediately overthrown by the world's leading lady rider.

Beezie's substantial 17hh gelding retains a pony-like agility and never looked like touching a pole. When they found a forward stride to the penultimate vertical, it was clear they were setting a lofty target.

"The Nations Cup wasn't my

finest moment, and I learned a little from that," Beezie reflected. "It's difficult to jump double clear here at Hickstead, and I didn't want to run the wheels off and have a repeat of what happened on Friday.

"He likes to go left, and during the Nations Cup I took him too sharp and didn't compensate.

This time on the approach to fence three, I knew the angle was going to be difficult and maybe I wouldn't have made the right adjustment there if it hadn't been for the other day.

"Unusually for a big horse, he's naturally fast and I could leave strides out. The right turn to the [penultimate] vertical suited him

### TALKING POINT

#### Double trouble

TWENTY-TWO out of 42 starters faulted at the customary double of gates, sited this year on a curving line from the open water and jumped away from home.

Traditionally railway gates, they have featured in the course for at least 50 years and this pair have been jumped in the King George V since its move to Hickstead in the early 1990s.

"You don't see gates on their own that much anywhere else in the world and to see them in a double is hard," explained course-builder Kelvin Bywater. "It was a difficult line this year asking them to lengthen and then be careful."

"Those gates are always difficult," said Beezie Madden. "When you make them a double it's hard for horses to concentrate on the first one – when they see there is a second one their attention is on that. It was compounded by being after the water when the stride then has to compress.

"Our chef said riding the line on eight strides wasn't looking that good. I went in and thought I'd ride it off my eye – you had to improvise."



and then I was able to coast home a little bit."

Beezie's fellow countryman Todd Minikus and Babalou 41 added four faults at the penultimate vertical.

The boldest challenge came from Britain's fearless 19-year-old Jessica Mendoza and her equally unfettered 14-year-old mare Spirit T. They commenced a motivated bid in flying style – not only was the esteemed grand prix title hanging on their round, it was also a viewing trial for the European Championships in Aachen.

Jessica rode the turns with guts, surviving a heart-stopping moment when the mare nearly ducked out at the penultimate fence. Accelerating to the last, they pulled out a stride but failed to make full reach for the oxer, taking both rails but with 0.3 of a second up on the clock.

"I had a normal stride [turning to the penultimate vertical], she saw it out of the corner of her eye and spooked, but when I kicked she came up," explained Jessica. "Because of that, my stride wasn't quite the same to the last. If I'd put in an extra one I might have gone clear but we would have been slower."

France's Penelope Leprevost and the 10-year-old Hanoverian mare Flora De Mariposa came closest to disturbing the American form – their clear round was just 0.36 of a second of the pace to snatch second place.

William Whitaker, the second of the Brits to make it through the deciding round, put in a final bid but took a pole for fifth place with top ride Fandango.



## THE FURUSIYYA FEI NATIONS CUP First win for Belgium

Pieter Davis' motivated clear in a nail-biting jump off aboard careful grey Dylano secures Belgium's first Nations Cup victory

**A** gripping three-way draw in the Nations Cup was resolved by a determined jump-off performance from Belgium's Pieter Devos.

His bold clear on 14-year-old Dylano secured victory for the Belgian team, elevating them to the top of the super league rankings.

Belgium, Switzerland and the USA all had just four faults on their sheets at the close of the second round, forcing the tie-breaker, where Pieter rode to an emphatic 1.57-second victory.

After disappointing performances had left him the discard score in both rounds, he set out to redeem himself in the deciding phase – going head-to-head with the USA's Beezie Madden (Cortes 'C') and Switzerland's Janika Sprunger (Bonne Chance CW).

"You never know what will happen in a Nations Cup," Beezie had mused ahead of the tournament, and an uncharacteristic stop at the double on the 17hh gelding Cortes 'C' dropped her nation to third.

Janika's exciting nine-year-old has already collected three international grands prix wins this season, and two keen and scopey clears in the initial rounds marked him as a worthy weapon.

But the bigger-striding Dylano was deceptively economical, and despite some exuberant mid-round bucks he forged a comfortable advantage over the Swiss rider's 44.17-second clear.

"I want to say great thanks to my team members, without them we would not have been in the jump-off, all three did a great job," said Pieter, who attributed his aberrant earlier faults to a recent change of bridle. "I said to myself, 'if I have to be on the podium [after the initial two rounds] the feeling would not be good'. I really wanted to ride the jump-off."

Both Olivier Philippaerts (H&M



'Motivated like hell': Pieter Devos and Dylano redeem themselves in the deciding phase

Armstrong Van De Kapel) and Judy Ann Melchoir (As Cold As Ice Z) had jumped double clears for the Belgian squad, while Gudrun Patteet (Sea Coast Pebles Z) added just four faults at the Hickstead planks in round B.

Against the form, Chef d'équipe Dirk Demeersman took the bold decision to invest his faith in Pieter's grey gelding.

"It was unusual but I really believe in the combination," said

Dirk. "The horse is very careful and he had three down, so I was sure he would do his very best, and I had a rider who was motivated like hell."

It was the first occasion the team has lifted the historic Edward, Prince of Wales trophy.

Having commenced the season with promising form – taking wins at Rome, La Baule and Rotterdam – a tight finish saw Team GBR's 11 faults plummet them down to sixth place.

While the placing was disappointing, there were other priorities for the Hickstead squad.

"It would've been really nice to win our home Nations Cup – we came with a strong squad of five so it is disappointing," acknowledged chef d'équipe Di Lampard. "For these two weeks

though, it will be the opportunity for viewing that is our priority. Hickstead and Dublin are very much in our minds for selecting the team for Aachen [European Championships]."

Squad pathfinder Michael Whitaker had been unlucky to tap the troublesome Longines vertical in the first round, adding a time-penalty to complete with just the five faults on Calcourt Falklund.

Holly Gillott and Dougie Douglas notched up an expensive 13 penalties in round A, adding a further nine on their second appearance.

The usually swift Guy Williams clocked up an unexpected time-penalty on 15-year-old Titus, adding yet another in the second round when they also tipped the gate.

It was Ben Maher and the comparatively green Diva II who proved the ultimate team anchors, executing two flawless clears to keep Britain's performance afloat.

"Ben and Diva were outstanding, his performance was masterly," said Di. "Diva is very inexperienced at this level and we have a lot of young horses forward for the squad. With young horses we will need enough time to make the correct selection that we have available." **H&H**

'I had a rider who was motivated like hell'

Chef d'équipe Dirk Demeersman on Pieter Devos' winning round

# QUEEN ELIZABETH II CUP

## Bright young things

The outsider in a quality field produces a breathtaking round to topple the favourites – even surprising herself



'I'm very surprised to have won' – Chloe Winchester and Avoca Valkyrie outshine their far more established rivals to top the prestigious Queen Elizabeth II Cup

**Y**OUNG rider Chloe Winchester wiped the floor with the favourites to win the coveted Queen Elizabeth II Cup on rising star Avoca Valkyrie.

An outsider with the bookmakers, 21-year-old Chloe was drawn into a head-to-head with 2013 Derby winners Phillip Miller and Caritiar Z as the class drew to a close.

Six clears from 26 starters had progressed to the second round where Tina Fletcher rode a competitive opening clear on Hello Sailor. Her supremacy was quickly contested by Kerry Brennan and the exceptional Wellington M, who stopped the clock 0.01 of a second behind Tina's time to lie in second.

Jumping from penultimate draw, Chloe's breathtakingly fluid round on the 12-year-old mare found strides all round the course. The daughter of Touchdown effortlessly devoured the 1.60m track, demonstrating impressive scope as she pinged down a trappy line from the double to a vertical. Given the calibre of the field, their 3.75-second lead as they broke the beam was staggering.

But last to jump, Phillip and "Carter" were in with an evident

chance of taking home the 66-year-old trophy.

The charismatic grey was nippy and economical but simply couldn't match the Irish mare's ground-eating pace. They settled for the runner-up spot 3.02 seconds behind.

"It's such a prestigious class and an honour to jump here, and to do a round like that was even better. I'm very surprised to have won," said Chloe. "We watched it last year on TV and I thought 'I want to jump that'. To say I've won the Queen Elizabeth II Cup is amazing and something I'll always have."

It was their line from a green oxer – a new fence in the jump-off – down to the combination that found them the extra seconds.

"I went straight across the green and white oxer and then back inside to the double, where I took seven strides down to the cream vertical. I was expecting about nine. She has so much scope I never had to worry about the height of the fences," said Chloe. "She loves competing on grass and having that much room to run and jump."

Comparatively, Phillip alleged to have tackled the vertical on "probably about 12 strides".

"I couldn't find a forward one anywhere down that line," he said.

### COMMENT

Trevor Breen



## 'It would've been the perfect end to the fairy tale'

**T**HE Royal International is always a great show. The weather forecast at the start of the week wasn't so good but by the end it was gorgeous – and that always helps to make any show feel a bit more special. To my eye, the crowds were up, the stands were all full for the big classes and there was an excellent atmosphere.

Ireland didn't have a team for the Nations Cup, which was disappointing, but it was still a really enjoyable class for me to watch and to walk the course.

The jump-off was an exciting conclusion and you would have definitely picked Beezie Madden as the favourite going in. She turned a bit tight and it went wrong for her but it shows everyone has an off-day.

Janika Sprunger had a cracker of a round and I didn't think it could be beaten, only for Pieter Devos to take nearly 2secs off. Beezie more than made up for the error by going on to win the King George V Gold Cup.

It would've been the perfect end to the fairy tale if Adventure De Kannan could have won for me and added the final piece to the puzzle. Although the full house of classics wasn't to be, he is still a great horse, especially at Hickstead.

He jumped his heart out, as he always does on a big day. He knows when I try and he does too – and I was really trying on Sunday. He jumped the first, second and third and the treble superbly and I thought it was going really well. We got to the gates the way I wanted but he clipped it behind – it was just one of those things. They took a lot of jumping and I was victim to it as well.

The horse was fantastic and all I can ask of him is his best.

One thing is for sure – Addy doesn't owe me anything. He's been my top horse for six or seven years and I'll never be annoyed or disappointed with him. He's been an unbelievable servant for me and his owner Karen Swann.

### Up against five-star riders

**W**HEN I walked the course for the King George, I didn't think it was a killer. I expected eight to 10 clears but it turned out to be more difficult, with only six going through.

The gates played their part but everywhere needed care – especially the combination and the last line to the Bunn Leisure oxer. Course-designers Kelvin Bywater and Bob Ellis got it spot-on.

I watched Hickstead on TV growing up and it's a show I always try and gear towards. I'm lucky I have two really good Derby horses, so at the Derby meeting I knew I had a chance.

Going to the Royal International is a different experience, and I'd be an outsider to win the grand prix here – you're pitched against five-star riders such as Beezie, Marcus Ehning and Christian Ahlmann. I don't get to jump at five-star shows week in and week out and it's great to be up against them.

I won the first day here in the 1.45m Bunn Leisure vase with Georgie D'Auvray. He's only nine and a relatively new ride – there's a lot more to come from him.

As an Irishman, Dublin is the pinnacle. Hickstead the week before is ideal for getting the horses up to speed at five-star level. I'm hoping for good results in Dublin to put myself in contention for future Nations Cups. **H&H**

### RESULTS

**Furusiyya FEI Nations Cup.** – 1, BEL 4 (P Devos/Dylano 4/12/0, J A Melchior/As Cold As Ice Z 0/0, G Patteet/Sea Coast Pebles Z 0/4, O Philippaerts/H&M Armstrong Van De Kapel 0/0); 2, SUI 4 (J Sprunger/Bonne Chance CW 0/0/0, P Estermann/Castlefield Eclipse 0/0, M Fuchs Clooney 51 0/4, P Schwizer/

Giovanni Van Het Scheefkasteel 0/15); USA 4 (E Madden/Cortes 'C' 0/0/8, L Kraut Nouvelle 4/0, C Jayne/Chill R Z 5/8); 6, GBR 11 (M Whitaker/Calcourt Falklund 5/0, H Gillott/Dougie Douglas 13/9, G Williams/Titus 1/5, B Maher/Diva II 0/0). **Queen Elizabeth II Cup.** – 1, Avoca Valkyrie (C Winchester); 2, Caritiar Z (P Miller); 3, Hello Sailor (T Fletcher).





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## INTERNATIONAL SUPPORTING CLASSES

Lorenzo de Luca pilots Homer De Reve to a clear win in Saturday's British Speed Classic



## Reve kickstarts Italian dream

The red, white and green flags are flying high as Italian riders enjoy success in the English sunshine, claiming speedy victories to bounce back from Nations Cup disappointment

**L**ORENZO DE LUCA spearheaded a comeback for the Italians when he trounced Hickstead supremo Guy Williams by an impressive 1.35 seconds in Saturday's British Speed Classic.

Partnering the StepheX Stable's talented eight-year-old Homer De Reve, he cruised to an astoundingly quick clear that trumped the British rider and his speed derby record-holder Casper De Muze.

"It is the first time I have ever gone faster than Guy," Lorenzo said. "It's a very fun class – not so high but it's really difficult to win here. The Irish and British are famous as speed masters."

It's easy to see why Lorenzo is extremely optimistic about this

young horse's future. The Nabab De Reve x Heartbreaker stallion was returning from a short break following a laudable CSI5\* 1.50m win at St Gallen, and will now be aimed at Dublin's eight-year-old class.

"My goal for two weeks has been this class with him and now I want to build him up for bigger classes," he added. "He won a lot of seven-year-old classes when he was in Belgium, so he is used to the speed. He's a clear-round machine and not scared about anything."

The Italians made the show's penultimate day one to celebrate, marking a turnaround from a joyless Nations Cup performance that left them trailing in last place.

Lorenzo's team-mate

Piergiorgio Bucci took the first class of the day, the Bunn Leisure Salver, on a step down for his top ride Casallo Z.

"He's only jumping the smaller classes here – at his last show he didn't go so well, so I wanted to give him confidence," said Piergiorgio, who is based in Holland. "He was supposed to be aimed at the Europeans but we had a problem at a combination in Mannheim."

The 11-year-old stallion was the fastest of 16 jump-off contenders, staking a 1.61-second winning margin over Germany's Christian Ahlmann and the graceful grey Caruso 472.

"With a horse like mine it's even easier when you are jumping in a big arena, he's really careful and

you don't need to think about the rails," said Piergiorgio. "I took some risks in front of the final combination. It's better for my horse when I come in slow so I turned in really short there."

On any other day, Swiss rider Romain Duguet's striking round on eight-year-old Cacharel in the British speed classic would have been enough for victory, but such was the blistering pace at the front of the field that they had to settle for third.

Consolation came in Sunday's Royal International accumulator, where he held off a bid from a determined Keith Shore to take the class with a 0.1 of a second headway on 13-year-old stallion Otello Du Soleil.

"I tried to win yesterday but it



was crazy fast. Cacharel was at her first five-star show and it's a big grass arena with lots of things to see," said Romain.

Otello Du Soleil has been based with the rider for seven years, and the combination's experience showed as they executed precision lines throughout the course.

"It's not an easy arena, it's never flat. There are really difficult angles in if you chose to cut inside. It makes it really hard to keep the balance," said Romain. "For a show like this you have to be together and know the horse and what you can do."

### Practice pays for Breitling

THE USA's Beezie Madden demonstrated how she has consistently ranked as the world's leading lady rider when she took the Bunn Leisure international stakes with a schooling round on nine-year-old stallion Breitling LS.

"I wanted to practise going fast with him as he needs to learn that," said Beezie.

Breitling seemed at home in

this vast outdoor ring as he took his first international win outside of young horse classes.

"He's impressive," Beezie added. "He's had a lot of experience at Spruce Meadows in big fields and he's brave."

Michael Whitaker had staked

an early British claim in Thursday's feature class when he topped the line-up in the Bunn Leisure trophy with Quelbora Merze – a new addition to his string this March.

The 11-year-old chestnut gelding pipped Christian Ahlmann

and Caruso 472 to the win by 0.14 of a second – one of two narrow misses for the German pair.

"You could see he had something in him. He has been building up to it getting placed a few times, and it has all come right on the day," said Michael.

Irishman Trevor Breen expanded his already extensive list of Hickstead victories when he led the opening international class, the 1.45m Bunn Leisure vase, with Kilian Browne's nine-year-old Georgie D'Auvray.



It all comes right on the day for Michael Whitaker and 11-year-old Quelbora Merze, who claim victory by 0.14 of a second to finish winners of the Bunn Leisure trophy

### RESULTS

#### INTERNATIONAL RESULTS

**30 July: Bunn Leisure vase.** – 1, Georgie D'Auvray EC (T Breen), IRL; 2, Springtime (H Smolders), NED; 3, JB's Hot Stuff (H Gillott), GBR. **Bunn Leisure trophy.** – 1, Quelbora Merze (M Whitaker), GBR; 2, Caruso 472 (C Ahlmann), GER; 3, Billy Angelo (W Funnell), GBR. **Amlin Plus eventers' challenge.** – 1, Cillnabradan Evo (A Nicholson), NZL; 2, Doonaveragh O One (E Power), IRL; 3, Cuarento (T McEwen), GBR. **31 July: Bunn Leisure international stakes.** – 1, Breitling LS (E Madden), USA; 2, Reconnaissance (S Breen), IRL; 3, Castlefield Cristobal 21 (J Whitaker). **1 Aug: Bunn Leisure salver.** – 1, Casallo Z (P Bucci), ITA; 2, Caruso 472; 3, Aquila SFN (W-J Van Der Schans), NED. **The British Speed Classic.** – 1, Homer De Reve (L De Luca), ITA; 2, Casper De Muze (G Williams), GBR; 3, Chacharel (R Duguet), SUL. **2 Aug: The Royal International accumulator.** – 1, Otello Du Soleil (R Duguet), SUL; 2, Zegreanne Z (K Shore), GBR; 3, Sultane Des Ibis (P Leprevost), FRA.

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## NATIONAL SUPPORTING CLASSES

## Caramba rewards Skelton's trust

A-level student Chelsea's tight-turn tactics pay off as she and Caramba steal a national championship title from a field of professionals



Chelsea Skelton and Caramba 'keep it tight' to clinch the winter grades B & C and their first national championship

an opening win in The Oakley Coachbuilders Winter JC championship riding Gordon Bowden's Bay Friend.

Millie Dickinson jumped the only other double clear with Ron Burgundy, trailing by over a second, but also collecting third with the fastest four-fault round on Claddagh Prince.

"We planned to put the pressure on and go clear and it worked," said Fraser. "We decided not to gallop to the last if she was clear at that point. That was where we thought we could still be beaten."

The 12-year-old mare turned JA the day she qualified at South View, and is now contesting pony showjumper of the year classes. Next year the ride will return to Gordon's granddaughter Vikki Selby.

"I'll be looking for some other rides now," Fraser added.

The winter 138cm track was exacting, and a treble three from home did efficient work thinning out the field. Four eventual clears contested the second phase, where Shaunie Greig's bold and forward riding on Drumaclan Flight suited the large grass arena.

Falkirk-based Shaunie and the 14-year-old Irish import piled on the demands from first draw, encouraging all but one other combination to fault.

Aware they were chasing a soaring target, last to go Emelia Mitchell and Little Miss Ebony opted to jump for clear, finishing runners-up 13.06 seconds behind.

"You can gallop her the whole way and trust her to leave them up," said Shaunie. "It was definitely one I wanted to win."

Winter 128cm winner My Little Sweetheart has form in this ring, having taken the title in 2012 with former jockey Jodie Hall-McAteer.

This time it was 10-year-old Hannah Barker who piloted the mare to victory, producing not only the fastest round but also the only double clear of the three

**E**IGHTEEN-YEAR-OLD Chelsea Skelton put herself on the map in the winter grades B & C as she partnered Caramba to a first national championship title.

The Lincolnshire student defied the odds to lead from the front in a 10-strong jump off.

"Grass isn't his favourite [surface] and he gets uneasy when it's slippery and raining, he loses confidence," said Chelsea, whose round fell in the middle of an unseasonable cold shower.

"Rather than push him on, I decided to keep things tight. He is really good at turning as he lands. When I started riding him I was still on ponies and I think it has influenced him."

Despite not being at peak fitness, the 17.1hh gelding overwhelmed the professionals, finishing 1.6sec ahead of his

fastest clear rivals Justin Tuff and Disco.

"He pulled a muscle in his groin at Chepstow international and I've been doing my A2 exams. He's still a bit fat," said Chelsea, whose win was testament to how far this once difficult eight-year-old has come.

"We couldn't afford a horse as good as him without issues and he was really naughty when we got him – he'd go up on his back legs and leave the arena. He's bolshy but he does try really hard," added Chelsea. She initially spotted the horse – whose lines include Wolfgang, Indoctro, Burggraaf and Ramiro Z – in an internet advert as a five-year-old.

"We bought him with my mum's kitchen money that she'd saved up for ages. She's got the kitchen now but it's three years late!"

Having jumped some beautiful

treble clears in recent newcomers and Foxhunter second rounds, Adrian Whiteway and Cojack had been nipping at the heels of a decent win.

They picked their moment in the SEIB winter novice, when they saw off a rival bid from Millie Allen and Senator Little Lusario to cling to the title by 0.08 of a second.

The eight-year-old selle Français is co-owned by Adrian and Heather Larson.

"He's a real blood type, always landing and going and you don't have to kick," said Adrian. "I knew Millie would be the one to beat. We made up some time taking a stride out to the last. I was holding for seven in the first round so I went for six in the jump-off."

**Reed piles on the pressure**  
FRASER REED, 14, led a Scottish charge on the pony classes with



jump-off riders.

"My plan was just to go as fast as I could," said Hannah. "I knew she liked the arena, I was just hoping the brakes would work – but she jumped well and I had control.

"I can rely on her to be careful and she has a massive stride for a little pony."

Hannah was continuing a family legacy in this ring. Her uncle, Paul Barker, also won the title on a grey pony, Silver Charm, in 1990.

The horses returned to the international arena on Friday, where Olivia Poole opened proceedings with a win in the children on horses grand prix riding her mother Michelle's Chinook BH.

William Whitaker aired a promising young stallion, Arkol, in the Old Lodge young breeding horse championship, jumping the quickest of two double clears to overtake Philip Spivey's early lead on Darya-I-Nur.

William has been riding Arkol, an eight-year-old by Argentinus, for the past year.

"That was his best win so far, he's always been very consistent and knocking on the door," said William, who has been clocking up mileage on the grey jumping seven- and eight-year-old classes in Europe.

"He doesn't have a great deal of experience in a ring like this. You don't know how they are going to adapt when you start asking them to go fast in that ring, so I'm really pleased with how he jumped." **H&H**



Fraser Reed and Bay Friend go double clear to claim the winter JC championship

## RESULTS

### NATIONAL CLASSES

**Equitop Myoplast novice stakes.** – 1, Banderas (M Phillips); 2, Zelandro (L Wade); 3, Elvis VI (H Taylor). **SEIB winter novice champ last qual.** – 1, Carrighill PJ (J Crippen); 2, Trezanti (M Jones); 3, Karthago De Cavron (E Elliott). **Old Lodge 1.35m open.** – 1, Carlus Royale (M Routledge); 2, Wellington M (K Brennan); 3, Vjlada MW (A Davies). **children on horses GP qual.** – 1, Chinook BH (O Poole); 2, All That Jazz X (O Leaning); 3, Carlie 3 (L Ulven). **Hickstead 1.30m open.** – 1, Elektrik II (A Davies); 2, Zooley (G Tame); 3, Whitney XI (H Larson). **winter grade B&C last qual.** – 1, Vitas W (D Charles); 2, Zoverla (O Poole); 3, Codar (A Williams). **Horse & Hound Foxhunter.** – 1, Glendun (H Wilson); 2, Dilana (M Dorgan); 3, Billy Cuckoo (P Funnell). **universal trailers 1.35m open.** – 1, S Zermie 3 (A Davies); 2, Naomi 55 (N Wilson); 3, Welshman II (A Boyce). **The Gray Horsebox Manufacturers 1m open.** – 1, Valdi Vee (C Uden); 2, Captain Junior (B Parnaby); 3, Pikatshoe V (E Giles). **Hickstead 1.05m open.** – 1, Bombastic II (H Taylor); 2, Valdi Vee (C Uden); 3, Stormbreaker (C Dealy). **Hickstead 1.05m pony open.** – 1, Quesaco Du Bary (A Clutterbuck); 2, Madge's Lane Larry (K Motion); 3, Killy Colour Code (S Bennett). **Oakley Coachbuilders winter JC.** – 1, Bay Friend (F Reed); 2, Ron Burgundy (M Dickinson); 3, Claddagh Prince (M Dickinson). **winter 128cm champ.** – 1, My Little Sweetheart (H Barker); 2, Painted Lady IV (R Proudley); 3, Time To Party (E Mitchell). **winter 138cm championship.** – 1, Drumaclan Flight (S Greig); 2, Little Miss Ebony (E Mitchell); 3, Sonas Barney (N Lockhead Anderson). **SEIB winter novice.** – 1, Cojack (A Whiteway); 2, Senator Little Lusario (M Allen); 3, Rosgan Divinity (J Emblen). **winter grades B&C.** – 1, Caramba (C Skelton); 2, Disco (J Tuff); 3, Newbridges Master Brown (C Bastone). **Ready Supp 1.10m amateur.** – 1, Cajelgant (R Baker); 2, Tell Me Quick (V Baker); 3, Cool Impression (L Stoner). **Universal Trailers 1.25m open.** – 1, Zimza La Bim (B Laurent); 2, Acapulca IV (M Drea); 3, Zakynthos II (B Drea). **Old Lodge 1.35m open.** – 1, Wellington M; 2, Goodman For Fun II (J Halim); 3, Corentino (M Spencer). **Gray Horsebox Manufacturers 1m open.** – 1, Hillside Freddie II (J Milton); 2, Ruby St Loise (K Benbow); 3, Verazano VDL (I McClelland). **children on horses GP qual.** – 1, Lakeland Dancer (J Gann); 2, All That Jazz X; 3, Native De Vesquerie (J Whitaker). **Equitop Myoplast novice stakes.** – 1, Billy Senora (A Wilks); 2, Renkum Jack Dane (M Bowling); 3, SLF Luxidor (K Taylor). **Horse & Hound Foxhunter.** – 1, Bolanina (R Parker); 2, Billy Anderson (Z Beasley); 3, Billy Salsa (W Funnell). **Old Lodge young breeding horse qual.** – 1, Elore (H Giltott); 2, Arkol (W Whitaker); 3, Ja Lo II (A Carnet). **Universal Trailers 1.05m open.** – 1, Captain Junior; 2, Billy Condretti (J Baxter); 3, Bonito (J Baxter). **Equitop Myoplast novice stakes.** – 1, Ballybaob (A Clover); 2, Portphilip CE (A Birch); 3, Killeenan Happy Go Lucky (A Stevenson). **Ready Supp 1.10m amateur.** – 1, Memory Dantares (J Deplace); 2, Anemoon Van De Kapel (M Ballard); 3, Tammy's Girl (A Bishop). **children on horses GP qual.** – 1, Porters Hill (I Bussey); 2, Valerie B (I Bussey); 3, Native De Vesquerie. **Gray Horsebox Manufacturers 1m open.** – 1, Ruby St Loise; 2, My Amazing Grace (M Ballard); 3, Valdi Vee. **Old Lodge 1.25m open.** – 1, Strides Controe (L Collett); 2, Blaze Of Glory II (H Turrell); 3, Graffiti Van Het Meyershof (G Tame). **Old Lodge 1.35m open.** – 1, Carus Royale; 2, Coreniero; 3, Wellington M. **children on horses GP.** – 1, Chinook BH; 2, Valerie B; 3, Lakeland Dancer. **Old Lodge young breeding horse champ.** – 1, Arkol; 2, Darya-I-Nur; 3, Calanda 42 (M Ehning). **Horse & Hound Foxhunter 2nd rnd.** – 1, Cassinis Chaplin (J Whitaker); 2, Billy McCain (W Funnell); 3, Darona (P Miller). **Gray Horsebox Manufacturers 1m open.** – 1, Billy Condretti; 2, Chantal B (K Lamley); 3, Pukka Up (M Emeny). **Old Lodge 1.30m open.** – 1, Vitas W (D Charles); 2, Elektrik II (A Davies); 3, Strides Controe. **Equitop Myoplast novice stakes.** – 1, Harlequin Sonador (C Tusley); 2, Billy On Edge (J Baxter); 3, Brandenburg. **Ready Supp 1.10m amateur.** – 1, All That Jazz X (O Leaning); 2, Victor Van Het Kloosterhooft (C Chapman); 3, Kirsch (M Garry). **Universal Trailers 1.20m open.** – 1, S Zermie 3 (A Davies); 2, Cloudy Night (B Laurent); 3, Affleur (S Baker). **Hickstead 1.20m open qual.** – 1, Tammy's Girl; 2, Hillcrest Amiro (R Fryer); 3, Hotesse (M Garry). **Ready Supp 1.10m amateur champ.** – 1, Voltaire II (H Tiley); 2, Anemoon Van De Kapel; 3, Cut The Corner (P Bursby). **Equitop Myoplast novice stakes.** – 1, Elvis VI; 2, SLF Luxidor; 3, Hersenate Van Het Kiezelhof (A Carnet). **Royal International 6&7-y-o champ.** – 1, Taima (C Platt); 2, Billy Mitchell (L Bunn); 3, Lammie Beach (H Giltott). **Old Lodge 1.30m open qual.** – 1, JA Waher (N Pavitt); 2, Hillcrest Animo; 3, Billy Comme Ca (D Simpson). **Gray Horsebox Manufacturers 1m open qual.** – 1, My Amazing Grace; 2, Tiamo II (C Bastone); 3, Billy Condretti. **BHS British riding clubs team jumping.** – 1, Mount Mascal Riding Club white; 2, Mount Mascal Riding Club gold; 3, Chobham & District riding club team 3.

## EVENTERS' CHALLENGE

# Evo powers to victory

Andrew Nicholson fends off stiff competition to take the Amlin Plus eventers' challenge, reports Gemma Redrup



'He will be a top horse': Andrew Nicholson and Cillnabradden Evo clock a speedy win

**B**ACK by popular demand, the reinvented eventers' grand prix provided a nail-biting competition right until the end.

Twenty event riders lined up to tackle the 19-fence, highly technical cross-country course.

The first to go, Tom McEwen on his own intermediate eventer Cuarento, set the standard, riding a polished, speedy clear round to finish on a total time of 126.16 seconds.

Tom, who eventually finished third, said of his round: "There was nowhere to hide out there, but it was lovely to feel like you had the crowd supporting you every step of the way."

It wasn't until Andrew Nicholson came into the arena 12 horses later that Tom's time was beaten.

Riding the nine-year-old Cillnabradden Evo, owned by Sally-Anne Egginton, Andrew never took his foot off the accelerator and, despite rattling the first part of the second road jump, came home clear in a time of 124.94 seconds.

Andrew has competed "Garry" at advanced and three-star level this season.

"He's a horse who has come up through the grades quickly and we've suffered a couple of falls, but he will be a top horse," said Andrew.

"There was no time to think

about what you wanted for lunch while riding the course – the fences came up very quickly," he said of the track.

The last horse to go, Doonaveeragh O One, ridden by Irish rider Elizabeth Power, looked very much at home in the International Arena. This horse won the Hickstead Speed Derby in 2013 with Elizabeth's brother, Robbie, and was also placed twice in the eventers' grand prix.

They stormed round the course, clocking the fastest time of the day – which was impressive considering this horse hasn't been around a cross-country course since 2011. Unfortunately for them, the fence that Andrew rattled fell this time when Doonaveeragh O One hit it, meaning the four seconds added for the knock-down put them just 0.08 of a second behind the winner.

Problems were scattered throughout the course and many riders took the long route at the famous Derby Bank.

Tanya Kyle (Emerald Butterfly), Rose Carnegie (Master Rory) and Joseph Murphy (Electric Cruise) all took a dunking at the spooky water, while Tina Cook fell at fence four, when her horse, DHI Zancorgino, took exception to the ditch and jumped the hedged wing. **H&H**



Nicola Wilson and One Two Many enjoy the perfect preparation for the European Championships, with a CIC3\* victory



## One Two Many leads Wilson's charge

**Owen Pugh Burgham (2),  
Northumberland**

30 July–2 August  
By Sue Polley

**N**ICOLA WILSON and One Two Many justified the British selectors' faith in them for this year's European Championships by winning the Owen Pugh CIC3\* at Burgham. To top things off, Nicola also finished third with her direct reserve horse, Annie Clover.

Only three combinations went inside the time in this hotly contested class – Belgium's

Stephanie D'Andrimont with Alexander IV (10th) and Oliver Townend with both Cooley SRS (fourth) and Samuel Thomas II (11th). Nicola's goal was to give both horses a steady run in what will be their only outing ahead of their autumn campaigns, but such is their class that the Kemps' and Janine Shewan's One Two Many still won with 6.4 time-penalties, with Annie Clover finishing a second slower.

Their delighted jockey was at pains to stress how lucky she feels to have such a good string of horses at the moment and

confessed that she was most pleased with One Two Many's dressage score of 37.5.

"This was the first time he felt 100% focused on working with me," confessed Nicola. "Although he's good on the flat he'll usually throw in a cheeky adaptation of his own somewhere, but he didn't today."

Conversely, she was left rueing glancing down to check the time during Annie Clover's showjumping round, which she felt caused the mare to lose concentration and lower a pole.

Paul Sims and his four-star ride

Glengarnock separated Nicola's rides. Paul also praised his partner's performance on the flat, which resulted in a score of 44.1.

"He's based with John Marsden who is about an hour from me so I only ride him a couple of times a week," explained Paul. "Traditionally, I've tended to focus on his jumping as that is his weakest phase (see box, p60) but I've done a lot more flatwork with him recently and he feels completely different. His test here was probably the best he has done."





Edited by  
**Pippa Roome**

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**DO YOU HAVE AN EVENTING STORY?**  
Email: pippa.roome@timeinc.com

OWEN PUGH BURGHAM (2)

## Faerie shows youthful speed

IT was a case of experience triumphing over youth in the Howard Russell CIC2\* in the shape of Julie Lawson's 17-year-old working stallion Primitive Faerie Tale.

"The old boy's still got it and feels as good as he did 10 years ago," said Julie.

The pair completed on their dressage score of 49.5 ahead of mere whippersnappers Sam Ecroyd, 18, and his seven-year-old partner Tullaher Sunrise (see box, below) on 50.9.

"He owes me nothing and I only take him to events I like," added Julie. "I thought the course and ground were both fab so I knew I could put my foot down."

"Frustratingly it's taken me all season to get my eye in and get up to speed but it all came together today."

Ryuzo Kitajima, a member of Japan's 2014 Asian Games silver-medal winning team with his CIC3\* ride Just Chocolate, rose from 18th after dressage to eventual third with Club Crane's Poachers Hope. The Stanhopes Diddicoy gelding was produced by Wills Goodhew and was previously competed by Ryuzo's compatriot Takayuki Yumira.

Oliver Townend, who put on a masterclass in riding efficient lines across country on all six of his CIC2\* and CIC3\* horses, rode three into the top 10 in the CIC2\*, Ballaghmor Class finishing best in fourth.

The ground was nigh-on perfect for all Saturday's classes, run over David Evans' challenging but fair and beautifully presented cross-country tracks. Riders in the two international sections



'He owes me nothing': Julie Lawson and 17-year-old stallion Primitive Faerie Tale complete on their dressage score to win the CIC2\*

were unanimous in their praise and cited the tracks as excellent prep runs for autumn three-days. Neither track caused significant problems, although the aptly named Quick Thinking combination of a big brush box to two offset brush corners at fence 19 on the two-star track and 20 on the three-star caught out a handful. Andrew Hoy and The Blue Frontier incurred a glance-off at the c element, Annie Broad and Lyme Park ran out at b and Willa Newton was unseated from Caja 20.

Aoife Clark and Richard Last's Fernhill Adventure were runaway winners of the open intermediate (OI) section, adding just 6.8 time-penalties to an excellent



Ryuzo Kitajima and Poachers Hope jump from 18th after dressage to CIC2\* third



## ONE TO WATCH

### Tullaher Sunrise

RUNNER-UP in the CIC2\* under Sam Ecroyd, the seven-year-old has won British Eventing points in five of his last seven outings, with this being the pair's best result to date. Sam's father bought the spirited Shannondale Sarco St Ghyvan gelding as an unbacked three-year-old from Goresbridge.

"He was bucking on the end of a lunge so stood out," said Sam.

After being "awful to back", the five-year-old went to Sam's showjumping trainer, Paul Sims, while Sam was still at school. They notched up

seven top-10 finishes.

"Paul called him The Gangster as he still had a bit of a nasty streak then," recalls Sam. "He's grown out of that now and is just a bit of a grumpy teenager."

That said, Sam very much regards him as a "proper sort" and has high hopes for their future. Their immediate goal is the CIC2\* at Haras du Pin followed by a CC12\* at the end of the year.

"He's not naturally the fastest but he's very careful so I don't need to check him across country," added Sam. "He's very together despite his age so will usually do a good test."



dressage score of 21.1.

Sophie Dodds and Be Touchable continued their run of good form this season by finishing second on 34.3 in what was their first OI together. Emilie Chandler and Coopers Law, one of the British squad reserves for the Blair Europeans, finished third.

In two intermediate sections where no other combination finished inside the optimum time, Caroline Powell's 1.6 too-fast time-penalties with the stunning grey Sinatra Frank Baby were quite an achievement. The pair had led after dressage but were chased all the way by Tom Jackson and Dusty II. The two pairs were in a class of their own, finishing more than 15 points ahead of the rest of the field.

Kate Rocher-Smith's win in section D1 with Call Me Dasset was nearly as convincing. The

## I OWE IT TO A new bit

PAUL SIMS confessed that it took him until last week to watch Glengarnock's Badminton showjumping round on video, where the pair's six fences down sent them plummeting down the leaderboard.

"When I watched it I realised he needed a bit more help getting off the ground and time in the air," said Paul. "With that in mind I switched him from a nathe pelham to a normal, straight-bar pelham here and he didn't touch a thing."

eight-year-old former showjumper completed on 37.6, well ahead of closest rivals Kirsty Cordner and Surely Valentine on 48. **H&H**



A new bit pays off as Glengarnock carries Paul Sims to the CIC3\* runner-up spot

## RESULTS

**CIC3\*** – 1, One Two Many (N Wilson) 37.5, 1.6=44.9; 2, Glengarnock (P Sims) 44.1, 3.6=48.7; 3, Annie Clover (N Wilson) 38.1, 4.6=48.9. **CIC2\*** – 1, Primitive Faerie Tale (J Lawson) 49.5, 0.0=49.5; 2, Tullaher Sunrise (S Ecroyd) 50.9, 0.0=50.9; 3, Poachers Hope (R Kitajima) 51.3, 0.0=51.3. **OI** – 1, Fernhill Adventure (A Clark) 21.0, 6.8=27.9; 2, Be Touchable (S Dodds) 34.3, 0.0=34.3; 3, Coopers Law (E Chandler) 25.5, 8.3=33.7. **int sec D** – 1, Sinatra Frank Baby (C Powell) 24.8, 0.1=24.9; 2, Dusty II (T Jackson) 26.1, 0.8=26.9; 3, Kilcannon Coolguy (L Stubbington) 29.1, 0.1=29.2. **sec D1** – 1, Call Me Dasset (K Rocher-Smith) 30.0, 7.6=37.6; 2, Surely Valentine (K Cordner) 36.8, 8.3=45.1; 3, Tregaverne (C Whittle) 33.2, 16.5=49.7. **ON** – 1, Belco HRS (P French) 21.3, 0.0=21.3; 2, William Wordsworth (S Straker) 29.5, 0.0=29.5; 3, Wutella (K Hall-Jackson) 32.3, 0.0=32.3. **nov sec E** – 1, Etilla (J Atkinson) 21.8, 0.0=21.8; 2, Jump Jet III (P French) 22.8, 0.0=22.8; 3, Cooley Adventurer (K Hague) 24.5, 0.0=24.5. **sec N** – 1, Foxwood Brown Sugar (A Lumley) 18.8, 4.0=22.8; 2, William Hennessey (W Murray)

24.8, 4.0=28.8; 2, Bee Naroud (B Tidd) 30.4, 0.0=30.4. **BE100 open** – 1, Downton Cally (L Hunt) 23.3, 1.0=24.3; 2, Lauras Ghareeb (L Robinson) 22.5, 4.0=26.5; 3, Red Ten (L Hunt) 25.8, 0.3=26.1. **BE100 sec K** – 1, Knockaround (A Malcolm) 25.8, 0.0=25.8; 2, Ardea Fun Size (S O'Neill) 24.5, 4.0=28.5; 3, Timpany Emperor (D Edward) 29.0, 0.0=29.0. **sec L** – 1, Mullentine Goose (W Oakden) 27.5, 0.0=27.5; 2, Khanamore (N Wilson) 24.8, 4.0=28.8; 3, Soprano D L Herbage (H Cooper) 25.8, 0.3=26.1. **BE90RF** – 1, Brigadier Lady (J Wright) 23.5, 0.0=23.5; 2, Finding Nico (K Carson) 24.5, 0.0=24.5; 3, Rainton Woodlander (G Bassett) 22.4, 0.0=22.4. **BE90open** – 1, What Have I Dun (S O'Neill) 23.5, 0.0=23.5; 2, Sleivfinn Charlie (E Carmichael) 24.5, 4.0=28.5; 3, Swansong III (K Magee) 26.8, 0.0=26.8. **BE90 sec G** – 1, Billanburn (C Marshall) 27.3, 4.0=31.3; 2, Cool Sunrise (S Lynch) 33.8, 1.0=34.8; 3, Xzibit (I Baker Cresswell) 35.5, 0.0=35.5. **sec H** – 1, Dinky II (J Wolfe) 31.0, 0.0=31.0; 2, Flash XIV (L Quigley) 27.8, 4.0=31.8; 3, Acorah (R Ross) 34.0, 0.0=34.0. **sec L** – 1, Touchdown Billy (H Stevenson) 19.8, 0.0=19.8; 2, Rustenberg Diamond (B Walker) 28.5, 0.0=28.5; 3, Denis IV (L Macbeth) 26.8, 5.0=31.8.

## COMMENT

### Mark Phillips



## Who takes responsibility?

I was interested to read that Mark Todd wants to see the end of the alligator in the water at Barbury (comment, 16 July).

It's on the list for change, partly as the three-star will have a new track next year. But I'm left with a lingering question about rider responsibility.

Many horses, particularly in the two-star, left a leg and several got an early bath. There was a boat strategically placed before the alligator so riders could take a chance and approach on the angle or go around the boat and jump the alligator square on. Everyone who got wet took the angle.

Is it up to the course-designer not to give riders the angled option or should it be the riders' responsibility to do what's best for their horse?

Like Mark, I was mystified why quite so many of the Brits — 20 — withdrew before cross-country. A CIC3\* is an expensive way to practise two phases. I could not agree with Yogi Breisner when he told me the ground was hard.

After the Verti-Drain treatment the two-star horses made a great cut the day before: even before the rain you could see the print they made. We did not Verti-Drain the three-star course until Sunday morning — the later you aerate, the greater the benefit to the horses.

### The clips have a use

AFTER my comments asking why MIM Clips cannot be used in Britain, British Eventing's (BE) Chris Farr wrote in to explain that they have not been submitted for the BE frangible device tests (letters, 9 July).

This is true — because the makers know the clips won't pass one of the Transport Research Laboratory criteria. There is a requirement around poles dropping vertically, while the action of the MIM Clip means the pole initially falls in an arc. However, this doesn't

stop the clips having a useful place in risk management.

The British frangible pins are not infallible. The pin breaks only in a particular type of rotational fall — most designers have seen more rotational falls where the pin did not break than where it did. Also the pin is less likely to break over a narrow fence or when hit by a pony.

Neither the pin, nor the reverse pin, nor the MIM Clip is guaranteed to break in every circumstance. If 10 horses hit a fence, they are likely to hit it in 10 different ways with different pressure from different angles. But a fence with a frangible device must be safer than one without.

My belief is that the MIM Clip has a role but, like the pin, it is not the answer to every type of impact. I gather BE is now talking again to the MIM designers in Sweden, so hopefully progress can be made. Then BE can further educate its designers as to which device to use according to circumstances.

### Facing the challenges

I talked to new BE chief executive David Holmes at Barbury. I was impressed by how quickly he has grasped the endemic problems within BE. Reorganising the board so each member has a specific area of responsibility will enable them to take better-informed decisions.

However, I still despair that energetic up-and-coming organisers are held back from running an advanced class until an existing venue falls off its perch, thus creating a vacancy. This cannot be healthy for the sport's development.

At the Festival of British Eventing at Gatcombe entries are good for the new Corinthian Cup and the intermediate championships, but the novice championships has seen a serious decline. Hopefully BE will look at the qualification criteria next year. **H&H**

● **NEXT WEEK:** Harry Meade



# Summerland steps up in style

Molly Summerland steers Blusteren to an impressive intermediate win on only her second outing at the level



**Weatherbys Bank  
Cholmondeley Castle,  
Cheshire**

1-2 August  
By Jo Prestwich

**M**OLLIE SUMMERLAND secured her first open intermediate win in what was only her second run above novice. Riding her own and Ginnie Wellings' Blusteren in the under-21 open intermediate (OI) section, Mollie added just four showjumping penalties to the best dressage in the section and then blitzed round Alec Lochore's cross-country course at speed.

"My aim was to qualify for Hartpury's CIC2\*," said Mollie who took the Dutch-bred horse from BE90 to CIC\* in his first season of eventing last year.

Fate intervened when the Kreator gelding arrived at Mollie's yard.

"I was riding a pony at the time

and this lady came up and started talking as she used to own it," said Mollie. "The next thing she was offering me Blusteren to ride and here we are!"

Since then Mollie has bought a share in the gelding but next year's competing will have to fit in around her A level exams.

Caroline Clarke finished 7.8 penalties adrift in second on Touch Too Much, with Francesca Sargent (Nankin W) in third.

## Nicholson scores a double

FOR the second year in a row, Andrew Nicholson won the event's main OI section – this time with Paul and Diana Ridgeon's Swallow Springs, who overtook long-time leader Izzy Taylor with her cross-country machine KBIS Briarlands Matilda. Andrew was also fifth on his Hickstead winner Cillnabradden Evo (report, p57).

Swallow Springs is a seven-year-old son of Chillout and a full

brother to another of Andrew's rides Ghost Story, who was a winner at Barbury. He led throughout and now heads to Gatcombe.

On her first visit to the event, Izzy Taylor rode three horses round for second, seventh (Its Chico) and eighth (Thistledown Poposki) and was pretty well foot-perfect on each. Oliver Townend took third aboard Sandiman II.

For good measure, Andrew also won the sole intermediate section with new ride Loughnatousa Joey. Like Swallow Springs, the gelding is Irish-bred. This was Andrew's third competitive outing on him following a win in Barbury's CIC2\* and a sixth in Aston-le-Walls advanced.

"He's a very classy horse," said Andrew, who will step the horse up to CIC3\* next and then possibly head to Boekelo. **H&H**

## TALKING POINT

### Course changes

THE cross-country, with a new start and finish, ran in an anticlockwise direction.

"I prefer the other route as it seemed to flow better," said Andrew Nicholson. "The combinations were very good and the ditch and rails at 11 was a proper fence but I did think that there were too many small fences in-between. They made the questions more serious, in particular at that last combination."

This fence, which caused the majority of the problems across the three sections, was a small log coming uphill, three strides to a big brush parallel and another big brush skinny a further three strides later. It was the latter part that caused the trouble with a number of combinations running past it.

"The small log in made it a bit like a jumping exercise in the school, albeit with a big second and third element, and you had to hold your line," said Izzy Taylor.

## RESULTS

**OI** – 1, Swallow Springs (A Nicholson) 23.2,0,0=23.2; 2, KBIS Briarlands Matilda (I Taylor) 26.4,0,0=26.4; 3, Sandiman II (O Townend) 28.0,0=28. **Olu21** – 1, Blusteren (M Sutherland) 24.3;4;0=28.3; 2, Touch Too Much (C Clarke) 30.9,4,1.2=36.1; 3, Nankin W (F Sargent) 24.6,8,3.6=36.2. **int.** – 1, Loughnatousa Joey (A Nicholson) 25.5,4,0.8=35.3; 2, Harleys Comet (I MacPherson) 34.1,0,1.2=35.3; 3, Shannondale Jasper (D Berkeley) 30.5,0,6=36.5. **nov** **sec F** – 1, Maesmawr Fox (H Waterhouse) 34.5,0,0=34.5; 2, Darcos Wisecracker (S Toogood) 33.8,0,1.6=35.4; 3, Topwood Dancer (E Gilruth) 33.3,4,0=37.3. **sec G** – 1, Evantos K (I MacPherson) 30.3,0,0=30.3; 2, Sea Admiral (S Brise) 28.8,4,2=34.8; 3, Dungar Diamond (J Kirby) 33.8,0,1.2=35. **sec H** – 1, Alcazar YB (R Long) 24.0,0=24; 2, Spring Ambition (R Carter) 27.0,0,27; 3, Elja (L-B Pilkington) 27.0,0,8=27.8. **sec I** – 1, Daisy XV (S D'Andrimont) 26.0,0=26; 2, Tregilder (O Townend) 28.3,0,0=28.3; 3, Shannondale Sue (R Carter) 29.5,0,2.4=31.9. **ON** – 1, Stanhopess Mr Macoy (P Stockton) 24.0,3,6=27.6; 2, Glimavragh (E Abell) 26.4,0=30; 3, Cooley Master (J Brakewell) 24.5,0,5.6=30.1. **BE100** **sec A** – 1, Cartier VD Ruitershoeve (A Downes) 19.3,4,0=23.3; 2, Barones (S Caplan) 24.8,0,0=24.8; 3, Bally Chill (H Moran) 26.3,0,0=26.3. **sec B** – 1, Rath Bouncing Sky (C Wilford) 29.8,0,0=29.8; 2, Henry The Hunter (T Crane) 30.0,4=30.4; 3, Galvanised (H Bate) 31.5,0,0=31.5. **sec C** – 1, Tullibards Lux Elegant (H McCance) 29.3,0,2=29.3; 2, Charestown Warrior (B McClumpha) 29.3,0,0=29.3; 3, Elsinore ELS (E Morton) 30.8,0,0=29.3. **sec N** – 1, Kiwi (A Clarke) 25.3,0,0=25.3; 2, Poppys Law (E Chandler) 27.0,0=27; 3, Tory Massini (J Brakewell) 26.8,0,4=27.2. **sec O** – 1, Cooley Galwaybay (E Chandler) 27.5,0,0=27.5; 2, Axel Folle II (M Williams) 27.5,0,0=27.5; 3, Jensen III (A Clarke) 24.3,0,4=28.3 **BE100open** – 1, Spring Into Business (F MacDonald) 22.5,0,0=22.5; 2, Coolgrange Pixie (V Mitchell) 20.4,0=24; 3, Ballyhyst Queen (L Middleton) 26.0,0=26. **BE100u18** – 1, Garrybritt Calvin (C Pearson) 25.0,0=25; 2, Garryduff Chacoa (C Pearson) 25.8,0,0=25.8; 3, LSF Lux Good (W Bower) 31.3,0,0=31.3.





Harry Dzenis and Xam fight off stiff competition from a 35-strong field to scoop the open intermediate at Wilton

# Xam speeds to victory

**Whitehead Vizard Wilton, Wilts**

1-2 August

By Emily Bevan

**H**ARRY DZENIS and Xam left Wilton House's stunning parkland with a rather large trophy after emerging victorious in the 35-strong open intermediate (OI) section. The pair trounced a high-quality field featuring a number of successful four-star combinations to finish at the head of affairs on a score of 30.4.

"He did a good dressage test and a clear showjumping so I thought 'why not?' and decided to kick on across country," said Harry. "He's done Badminton and Barbury this year and there was a lot of pressure at those events, so it was great to drop him down a level and just go out there and have fun. I certainly never thought we'd win."

The duo was one of only two combinations to finish Anthony

Fooks and James Willis' 21-fence cross-country course under the optimum time in this section, although they did clock up 0.4 of a time-fault for going too fast. Harry and the 14-year-old Java Tiger son are set to contest the CIC3\* at Hartpury before having their second attempt at Burghley.

Kiwi Jonelle Price and Cloud Dancer II, who led the dressage in this section together with Tina Cook and Billy The Red, wound up in the runner-up spot after they "ran economically" across country. Tina and Billy The Red withdrew before the cross-country.

"On paper he's not destined



More than a dressage horse: Dickon Reader steers Bravanjo to a 'dream' intermediate win

to be an event horse, but he believes he is and he's turning into a little professional," said Jonelle of the eight-year-old KWPN gelding. "He had a holiday after finishing fifth in the CIC3\* at Luhmühlen and this was his first run back so he was a bit fresh, but he came out, did his job and made it feel easy."

Another New Zealander in the money at Wilton was Mark Todd, who claimed intermediate section H aboard MK San Cero. The pair added just two cross-country time-penalties to their first-phase mark of 32.1 to finish ahead of Vittoria Panizzon and Weronique on 34.9.

## Home-bred's dream win

DICKON READER continued his fruitful partnership with Bravanjo by occupying first place in the under-21 OI class.

"It's a dream," said Bravanjo's owner, Tracy James. "I bred him with the aim of competing him at dressage, but dressage alone wasn't enough for him. I knew I had to find a jockey talented enough to take him on and I was lucky to find Dickon, who lives just down the road."

The 10-year-old lives with Tracy in the Forest of Dean and Dickon visits to ride him three or four times a week. The duo, who are in their second season together, completed on their dressage-leading mark of 26.6 to finish more than six penalties in front of India Wishart and The Masters Harry.

"He tends to drop off my leg going into the arena so I have been doing lots of arena practice with my trainer, Ian Woodhead," said India, who recorded a personal-best dressage score of 27.1 with the nine-year-old gelding, who she has been riding since 2012.

India is coming to the end of her second gap year, during which she has been based with both Lucy Wieggersma and Austin O'Connor, and is off to Birmingham University in September to study geography.

Emily King and the Dutch-bred Dargun led intermediate section E from start to finish to record their third victory in just four outings.

"It's our first season together and we spent the spring getting to know each other, but now we seem to have a good bond," said Emily



## FIRST WIN

### Sian Hawkes and Balham Mist

"IT'S been a long time coming," joked Sian Hawkes about her intermediate victory on Andrew Ayres's Balham Mist, an eight-year-old son of Mill Law, who was previously piloted by her trainer Austin O'Connor.

"It's taken us a while to get to know each other but finally it's coming together. We were sixth in a novice class here last year so I knew he liked the course, and he loves the top of the ground so it was perfect conditions for him."

Sian, who is moving to Kanturk, in Cork, in September to work for Kate Jarvey, also trialled a new tactic at Wilton in an attempt to combat Balham Mist's tendency to get hot on the flat.

"I put him over a few showjumps before the dressage, which seemed to work. He loves to jump and it seemed to keep him calm."



of the gelding. "He's a very good mover and jumper and finds it all easy, but he's only seven so we're not rushing him."

Tom McEwen rode eight-year-old Cuarento into first place in the remaining intermediate section, finishing ahead of Caroline Harris and the Kannan-sired mare Billy Bumble.

Organiser Anthony Ffooks and his team, which includes around 150 volunteers, put on another successful two days of competition in what was the 39th running of Wilton Horse Trials. Riders were full of praise for the cross-country course, which asked plenty of questions but rode well.

"All the fences are portable so I am able to tweak the course slightly each year while keeping to the same track," said Anthony. **H&H**

## RESULTS

**01.-** 1, Xam (H Dzenis) 30,0,0,4=30.4; 2, Cloud Dancer II (J Price) 25,0,6,4=31.4; 3, Toblerone NZPH (C Landolt) 28,2,0,5,2=33.4. **01u21.-** 1, Bravanjo (D Reader) 26,6,0,0=26.6; 2, The Masters Harry (I Wishart) 27,1,0,6=33.1; 3, Kelsons Lottery (E Pope) 35,9,0,0=35.9. **int sec E.-** 1, Dargun (E King) 22,5,0,3,2=25.7; 2, Bernadette Utopia (P McCarthy) 28,6,0,0,8=29.4; 3, Shannondale Quest (L Lockwood) 25,2,0,8=33.2. **sec F.-** 1, Cuarento (T McEwen) 24,8,0,0,4=25.2; 2, Billy Bumble (C Harris) 27,1,0,3,2=30.3; 3, Danturano K (T Price) 29,6,4,1,2=34.8. **sec G.-** 1, Balham Mist (S Hawkes) 31,1,0,0=31.1; 2, Themis (S Hourigan) 31,6,0,2,4=34; 3, Major Diamond Flight (W Biggart) 33,0,3,2=36.2. **sec H.-** 1, MK San Cero (M Todd) 32,1,0,2=34.1; 2, Weronique (V Panizzon) 30,9,4,0=34.9; 3, Britannias Mail (L Fredericks) 33,2,0,4=37.2. **ON sec C.-** 1, Jovial Valentino (S Hawke) 29,8,0,0=29.8; 2, Harley Brown (S Holmes) 31,5,0,0=31.5; 3, Rooney VI (G Baldock) 31,8,0,0=31.8. **ONu18 sec D.-** 1, Access Bill (C Faulkner) 35,3,0,0=35.3; 2, Clover II (H Mitchell) 30,5,0,5,2=35.7; 3, Enumero (E Roberts) 31,8,4,0=35.8. **nov sec A.-** 1, Wisbeach River Deep (P McCarthy) 28,0,0,0=28; 2, The Emerald Lily (C Rowe) 28,8,0,0=28.8; 3, Carry On Regardless (K Jupp) 29,3,0,0=29.3. **sec B.-** 1, Unique Dawson (T Price) 22,8,0,1,2=24; 2, Ascona M (J Price) 24,8,0,0=24.8; 3, Colorado Blue (A O'Connor) 27,3,0,0=27.3. **sec L.-** 1, Pats Jester (T Price) 24,5,0,0=24.5; 2, Hildenleys Courage (E Clucas) 32,3,0,0=32.3; 3, Bonmahon JD (L Heywood) 32,8,0,0=32.8. **sec M.-** 1, Super Cillious (V Panizzon) 20,0,0,0=20; 2, Artistic Affaire (R Dobson) 24,5,0,2=26.5; 3, Tullibards Whats Next (L King) 27,0,0=27.

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# Dowle serves up a winner

A 14-year-old rediscovers his zest for eventing at Frickley Park (1), a new approach to cross-country pays dividends and two teens make their mark. **Ellie Hughes** reports

**D**ESPITE only clambering into bed at 4.40am on Saturday morning, Steph Dowle, who works behind a bar at weekends, still pulled a novice win out of the bag at the Smiths Gore-sponsored Frickley Park (1) on 25-26 July.

"Luckily, my dressage wasn't until just before 5pm, so I managed to catch a few hours' sleep," said the section N winner, for whom this was a first run in nine months with her 14-year-old partner, Just Like Joe.

"I've competed Joe up to CCI2\* level, but at the start of last season he started to feel stale, so I spent most of 2014 and the winter months just hacking and letting him enjoy life again with no pressure," said Steph, whose dressage score of 26.5 was a



Steph Dowle and Just Like Joe leap to novice victory after scoring a career best in the dressage

career best. "I was so emotional when my friend told me the score that I burst into tears!"

Ann Walker piloted her home-bred Jumbo six-year-old mare

Blowell Daydream to victory in BE90 section B.

"My daughter, Alice, had been competing her at novice level, but the mare lost a bit of confidence

in the showjumping, so I took her out for an easy run," said Ann. "I enjoy competing at this level, but Alice complains that every time I steal her ride I win – the same thing happened last year with a horse called Duvel!"

Photographer, instructor and event rider Katie Stephens-Grandy steered her seven-year-old gelding Trendy Magic Touch to victory in BE90 section C.

"When I got him last October he was so green he could barely trot a circle, but he's turned into a really exciting prospect," said Katie, who was quick to praise the efforts of Frickley's organising team. "The courses are beautifully presented, and every horse comes away having learnt something."

The venue, which has just been awarded the national under-18 championships from 2016 onwards, will benefit from further improvements over the winter.

"We have been working with Mark Phillips, looking at how we can build on some of our feature fences for next year," said joint-organiser Vanessa Fleming.

## I OWE IT TO...

### Upping the tempo

EIGHTEEN-year-old Naomi Lawrence attributes her win in the ONu18 at Aston-le-Walls (3) to riding her horse, So Quiet (Wispa) in a more positive rhythm across country.

"Wispa had only showjumped when I bought him 18 months ago and it took me ages to get him going forward," she explained. "I almost sold him at the end of last season because we kept getting eliminated or having to retire."

A winter dedicated to cross-country schooling paid dividends.

"Nigel taught me how to ride forward without interfering and not worry about looking for a stride. The more we did the better Wispa went. This season we've achieved the optimum time at almost every event," she said.

## Setting the record straight

**T**WO riders who narrowly missed winning last time out set the record straight at Dalkeith (2) by topping their respective sections.

Jennifer Pearson rode Kay Smith's six-year-old home-bred As You Like It V into pole position in BE100 section H having been pipped at the post at Warwick Hall (2) a fortnight earlier.

Thirteen-year-old Ella Robson

also put an "if only" to bed, scoring an assured victory in BE80(T) section C with Bobby Dazzler XIII, having been beaten into second place by a whisker last time out at Kirkley Hall.

"I was determined to do a better dressage test. Bobby can be a diva, but he was in a good mood today," said Ella, whose 30.5 score was a five-penalty improvement on her previous outing. **H&H**



Pole position: Jennifer Pearson and As You Like It V head BE100 section H

## FIRST WINS

### Amelia James

THE 13-year-old was delighted to secure her first win at her local event, Dauntsey, aboard her pony, Hayestown Donny.

"It was the biggest, most technical course I've ridden; when I walked it I never imagined I'd get round, let alone go double clear," admitted Amelia, who beat her godmother, Kathryn Harris, into second place in BE90 section A.

### Francesca Brough

FITTINGLY, the West Sussex-based rider scored her first win with her five-year-old Ferdi III at Borde Hill (2), where her mother, Di, was secretary on the day, her father, Miles, sponsored a section and her sister, Cassie, was in charge of the mid-morning "bun run".

"Being a local event, it's extra special to do well here," said Francesca, who bought the Verdi-sired gelding from Flora Harris last year.



**RESULTS****JH BUILDERS AND BILL KEAR ARENAS & GALLOPS BORDE HILL(2)**

**ON.** - 1, Billy The Red (K Cook) 26.3,0,8.4=34.7; 2, Calvino II (K Cook) 36.3,0,8.4=44.7; 3, General Commotion (L Scott) 29.3,8,18=55.3. **nov.** - 1, Freshmans Pink Floyd (K Spencer) 29.5,0,8.4=37.9; 2, Jacks Back (C Lewis) 31.3,0,16.54=47.7; 3, Dourough Explorer (H Dzenis) 35.5,0,15.2=50.7. **BE100open.** - 1, Summer High (E Phipps) 24.3,0,2=26.3; 2, Brendonhill Faerie Fortune (K Beier) 22.8,4,0=27.3; 3, Foxglove II (M Russell) 22.8,4,6=32.8. **BE100 sec H.** - 1, Tambrook Suburban Knights (N Wilson) 25.8,4,0=29.8; 2, The Gossip (K Beier) 26.8,8,0=34.8; 3, Martins Irish Cassino (O Martin) 28.8,2,4=34.8. **sec L.** - 1, Cundlegreen Darius (T Cousillas) 30.8,0,0=30.8; 2, Be Delicious (G Smart) 37.8,0,2=39.8; 3, Montgomery Flax (P Hill) 32.5,4,4=40.5. **sec J.** - 1, Jack Harbour (H Colderick) 31.8,0,0=31.8; 2, Sarabande (E Mills) 31.5,0,2=33.5; 3, Emorka P (F Brough) 25.8,8,0=33.8. **BE90 sec C.** - 1, Ferdi III (F Brough) 28.8,0,0=28.8; 2, Derwins Blue (C Freed) 26.5,4,0=30.5; 3, Lady Van Utah (H Folkard) 32.0,0=32. **sec F.** - 1, Cendys First (A Sykes) 29.8,0,0=29.8; 2, Starlight Tinkerbelle (F Jordan) 28.4,0=32; 3, Culti Dolly Mix (Z Chambers) 32.3,0,0=32.3. **sec G.** - 1, Da Vinci II (J Vanassche) 26.4,0=30; 2, Pumlion Loveheart (S Ashwell) 30.3,0,0=30.3; 3, Donatello VD Vlasbloemhoeve (C Pilkington) 29.5,2,0=31.5. **BE80(T) sec A.** - 1, Newtown Russell (G Thomson) 26.5,0,0=26.5; 2, Bookham Lodge Ronaldo (A Green) 29.1,0=30.8; 3, Fraggie Rock VI (K Ashby) 31.5,0,0=31.5. **sec B.** - 1, Rowhill Rocker (E Evans) 27.5,0,0=27.5; 2, Its Smee Time (R Hill) 29.0,0=29; 3, Rocky VIII (T Urbanova) 30.3,0,0=30.3. **sec C.** - 1, Ilar Vincent (H Reed) 22.8,4,0=26.8; 2, Silken Crème (T Scott) 33.8,4,4=46.2; 3, Pepperazzi (T McCracken) 39.4,4,8=47.8. **sec D.** - 1, Jaccobama Van Den Horst (B Mattelea) 27.5,10,8=29.3; 2, Wolverino (V Edwards) 31.4,0=35; 3, Morello III (J Sneddon) 35.5,0,0=35.5.

**DALKEITH (2)**

**ON.** - 1, Black Boy Clover (J Ryder) 27.5,0,0=27.5; 2, Ballbreaker SD (W Oakden) 24.8,4,0=28.8; 3, Glenvilla Mai (F Malcolm) 32.5,0,0=32.5. **ONu18.** - 1, Turbo Toy (L Crawford) 23.8,0,0=23.8; 2, Pocket Rocket IV (D Crawford) 29.8,4,0=33.8; 3, Romario II (I Mackenzie) 35.0,0=35. **nov sec N.** - 1, Avontuur (G Burns) 33.3,0,0=33.3; 2, Damdeasy (A Meikle) 27.8,0,6=33.8; 3, Uno Duo (S Murray) 34.0,0=34. **sec O.** - 1, Cooley Timepiece (K Hague) 28.3,4,0=32.3; 2, Cryptonite (E Parker) 29.4,0=33; 3, Springtime Jazz (S Magennis) 29.8,8,0=37.8. **BE100open.** - 1, Valco II (D Edward) 27.8,0,2=29.8; 2, Ninja Ninja II (C Chichester) 30.8,0,0=30.8; 3, Balhagarty Harvest Gold (J Burnett) 27.5,4,0=31.5. **BE100u18.** - 1, Soviet Star (L Runciman) 24.4,0=28; 2, Castella (L Botterell) 30.0,0=30; 3, Opposite Reflection (F Feather) 28.8,0,3=31.3. **BE100 sec H.** - 1, As You Like It V (J Pearson) 19.5,4,0=23.5; 2, D Artagnan II (S Runciman) 23.5,0,16=25.1; 3, Coudoran (A Ferrari) 31.0,0=31. **sec I.** - 1, Fugley III (D Gatherer) 26.5,0,0=26.5; 2, Greno Storm Ahead Ted (A Ferrari) 34.5,0,0=34.5; 3, Ard Lipstick (F Stead) 34.8,0,0=34.8. **sec K.** - 1, Elstar Van De Smisheve (M Robertson) 28.3,0,0=28.7; 2, Jac D Hiane (D Scott) 29.0,0=29; 3, Whos Vision (C Meikle) 29.8,0,0=29.8. **sec L.** - 1, William XVII (A Hua Tian) 11.5,0,6.8=18.3; 2, HHS Eyes Only (R Macpherson) 22.5,0,0=22.5; 3, Greyford Boy (J Reid) 23.0,0=23. **5yo.** - 1, Fabiola P (A Hua Tian) 13.5,8,0=21.5; 2, Good Luck Charm (E Parker) 26.0,0=26; 3, Skyline (A Hua Tian) 27.5,0,0=27.5. **BE90open.** - 1, Balladeer Maestro (J Thompson) 30.0,0=30; 2, Crevagbawn Star Light (S Craig) 31.8,0,0=31.8; 3, Templebready Miss Bailey (Z Niven) 31.8,0,0=31.8. **BE90 sec D.** - 1, Zelana (C Scott) 23.3,0,0=23.3; 2, Victory Blues (F Miller) 32.0,0=32; 3, Voltaires Diamond (M Pratt) 28.3,4,0=32.7. **sec E.** - 1, Silver X (E Macaulay) 25.5,0,0=25.5; 2, Bennie II (L Smellie) 28.0,0=28; 3, L Eminence Grise (M Vernon) 28.0,0=28. **sec F.** - 1, Bogis (L Brennan) 30.0,0,8=30.8; 2, Star Traveller (L Clarke) 32.3,0,0=32.3; 3, Deepark Rebel (J Ralston) 33.8,0,0=33.8. **sec R.** - 1, Quincy IV (C Padfield) 27.5,0,0=27.5; 2, Angelo (S-A Stoker) 30.5,0,0=30.5; 3, Ballinglen Rebels Dream (L Spence) 33.0,0=33. **sec S.** - 1, Milo VIII (M Laurie) 21.3,0,0=21.3; 2, Dear Prudence (R Keith) 23.8,0,0=23.8; 3, Miss Rath (J Macgregor) 24.0,0=24. **4yo.** - 1, San Miguel III (A Hua Tian) 21.5,4,0=25.5; 2, Something Classical (E Parker) 31.4,20=55. **BE80(T) sec A.** - 1, Port For Paddy (J Turnbull) 27.5,0,0=27.5; 2, RD Bentleys Lad (V Smith) 34.8,0,0=34.8; 3, Crossdrum D (J Alexander) 35.0,0=35. **sec B.** - 1, Harbour Lad (F Friell) 27.8,0,0=27.8; 2, Skyes The Limit II (D Rutherford) 27.0,1=28; 3, Silent Whisper II (R Scott) 25.5,4,0=29.5. **sec C.** - 1, Bobby Dazzler XIII (E Robson) 30.5,0,0=30.5; 2, Killagoola Clover (N Watson) 30.8,0,0=30.8; 3, Golden Bullet (A Waugh) 34.5,0,0=34.5.

**KNIGHT FRANK DAUNTSEY PARK (1)**

**IN.** - 1, Kings Choice (M King) 27.5,0,2.8=30.3; 2, MGH Regents Street (M Dumas) 30.5,0,0=30.5; 3, Cornish Daybreak (K Burton) 29.6,0,4.8=34.4. **ON.** - 1, Super Cillious (V Panizzon) 27.0,0=27; 2, Weronique (V Panizzon) 29.0,0=29; 3, BGS Captain Morgan (K King) 29.3,0,0.4=29.7. **nov sec J.** - 1, Valarchin (N Spratt) 24.0,5.6=29.6; 2, Piccola Diavola (S Cutts) 30.5,0,3.6=34.3; 3, Yacabo BK (A Nicholson) 29.3,4,3.6=36.9. **sec K.** - 1, Iron IV (S Milnes) 25.8,0,3.6=29.4; 2, Ghost Story (A Nicholson) 28.4,1.6=33.6; 3, The Team Mate (V Panizzon) 33.5,0,1.2=34.7. **sec L.** - 1, Ego W (N Spratt) 30.5,0,0=30.5; 2, Schmaul (E Proud) 35.0,0=35; 3, Gurtera Cher (S Griffiths) 28.8,0,8=36.8. **BE100open.** - 1, Choc Ice II (G Silvey) 25.0,0=25; 2, Hercules Morse (M Thomas) 27.5,0,0=27.5; 3, Kilkerin Lux (F Best) 28.0,0=28. **BE100 sec G.** - 1, Opposition Hemera (K Johnston) 24.8,0,0=24.8; 2, A Cooley Connection (D Doel) 22.3,0,3.6=25.9; 3, Eluna (N Spratt) 22.4,0=26. **sec H.** - 1, Mille Fleurs (H Fetherstonhaugh) 26.5,0,0=26.5; 2, Mr Black II (L Zijlman) 31.5,0,0=31.5; 3, Merrywell Cavalier (A Lowe) 31.8,0,0=31.8. **sec I.** - 1, Kandinsky (M Glentworth) 27.8,0,0=27.8; 2, Axel Folie II (M Williams) 28.5,0,2.4=30.9; 3, My Friend Jackson (D Doel) 31.8,0,1.2=33. **sec O.** - 1, Elfield Graffi (A Whewall) 29.3,0,0=29.3; 2, Cavaliers Back To Black (Z Davison) 29.5,0,0=29.5; 3, Mounttemple Mistress (J Rimmer) 30.3,0,0=30.3. **sec P.** - 1, Noels Sox (D Western-Kaye) 25.0,0=25; 2, Freestyler (A James) 26.5,0,0=26.5; 3, Galwaybay Echo (N Spratt) 29.5,0,0=29.5. **BE90open.** - 1, Piers Gaveston (D Berkeley) 24.5,4,0=28.5; 2, Dot To Dot III (T Cheffings) 26.4,0=30; 3, Tennessee De La Rose (C Croft) 30.0,0=30. **BE90 sec A.** - 1, Hayestown Donny (A James) 25.3,0,0=25.3; 2, Always Ollie (K Harris) 25.5,4,0=29.5; 3, Puccini II (S Davies) 33.3,0,0=33.3. **sec B.** - 1, Little George (H James) 32.3,0,1.2=33.5; 2, Orions Brite Spark (L Collard) 34.5,0,0=34.5; 3, Paper Mill (T Searle) 35.3,0,0=35.3. **sec C.** - 1, Partly Puzzled (H White) 24.0,0=24; 2, Cassie (J Todd) 25.5,0,0=25.5; 3, Diesel IV (D Zijlman) 28.5,0,0=28.5. **sec D.** - 1, Attychree Prince (J Bush) 30.3,0,0=30.3; 2, Cooley Legaland (K Cadney Moon) 26.8,0,4=30.8; 3, Our Larry (A James) 31.3,0,0=31.3. **sec E.** - 1, Destine A Etre (C Fear) 27.5,0,0=27.5; 2, Kilcarna Roy (J Hobbs) 28.4,0=32; 3, Floral Countess (C Beer) 30.8,4,0=34.8.

**SMITHS GORE FRICKLEY PARK (1)**

**ON.** - 1, Well Designed (S Straker) 29.3,4,2=35.3; 2, Caesar II (S Platt) 32.8,4,0=36.8; 3, Tippy Laird (C Molyneux) 34.3,0,6=40.3. **nov sec N.** - 1, Just Like Joe (S Dowle) 26.5,0,4.4=30.9; 2, Fridays Rebel (S Blades) 26.8,3.2=37.2; 3, Oak Wood Bunny (J Adams) 29.4,4,6=39.5. **sec O.** - 1, Easy Feelings (W Bower) 20.5,4,5.2=29.7; 2, MHS Falcon (H Atkinson) 30.5,0,8=38.5; 3, Off The Key (L Battle) 34.3,0,10.4=44.7. **BE100open.** - 1, Starholme Amberleigh (H Howard) 19.8,0,10.4=30.2; 2, Roundhills Royal Rory (B Atkinson) 30.3,0,2=32.3; 3, Back Chat IV (E Proctor) 32.5,0,0=32.5. **BE100 sec I.** - 1, Martel (R Holden) 25.0,1.2=26.2; 2, Waithside De Rebus (P Mellor) 30.0,2.8=32.8; 3, May Time III (M Foster) 31.5,0,2.8=34.3. **sec J.** - 1, Dunhoofin Able Bouncer (J Somerville) 23.3,8,0=31.3; 2, DHI Zeus (R Chilton) 25.8,6.2,4=34.32; 3, Miss Emily (C Hill) 24.1,11.2=36.2. **sec K.** - 1, Hardy Boy Alfie (G Holden) 25.8,0,5.6=31.4; 2, Beethoven (P Mellor) 32.3,0,0=32.3; 3, Mirannan (L Newman) 33.5,0,4.4=37.9. **sec L.** - 1, Ballinagore Quality Imp (F Young) 29.3,4,2.4=35.7; 2, Cearney (C Dennis) 33.8,4,0,4=38.2; 3, Shannondale Annie (B Harrold) 32.8,0,5.6=38.4. **BE90 sec A.** - 1, Who's Class (C Wood) 25.0,0=25; 2, Tullagh Brack (L Ford) 27.3,0,0=27.3; 3, Peewit (A Jackson) 29.0,0=29. **sec B.** - 1, Blowell Daydream (A Walker) 27.5,0,0=27.5; 2, Enjoy II (S Charmley) 27.0,2=29; 3, Tea In Marrakech (H Dunning) 23.5,8,0=31.5. **sec C.** - 1, Trendy Magic Touch (K Grandy-Stephens) 28.3,0,0=28.3; 2, Baskin Breakaway (M Drewery) 24.3,4,0=28.3; 3, Daruna Blue (O Kent) 28.3,0,0.4=28.7. **sec D.** - 1, Eddie's Dream (M Moffett) 26.8,0,0=26.8; 2, Hilltop Bouncer (A Simpson) 32.5,0,0=32.5; 3, Welham Mile High (B Norman) 33.3,0,0=33.3. **sec E.** - 1, Keara (T-J Davis) 27.0,0=27; 2, Darcenzo Dancer (K Carson) 25.5,4,0=29.5; 3, Liam II (O Wells) 27.3,4,0=31.3. **4yo.** - 1, Shannondale Aston (W Newton) 25.8,0,0=25.8; 2, Cassios Princess (E Hobson) 29.5,0,0=29.5; 3, Quality Mack (P Ward) 29.5,0,0=29.5. **BE80(T) sec G.** - 1, Primitive Fox II (K Trueman) 30.0,0=30; 2, Connor II (S Crofts) 34.0,0=34; 3, Cuttack (R Holden) 34.3,0,0=34.3. **sec H.** - 1, Fearless Poet (E Clarke) 30.3,4,0=34.3; 2, Jumbo Jetstream (K Trueman) 30.3,5,0=35.3; 3, Sixth Zak (L Patrickson) 37.0,0=37.

**CAVAN**Performance Horse & Pony Sales  
(Southern Ireland)**3 DAY SALE****INTERNATIONAL  
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'I can't wait to get on her every day': Emile Faurie has high hopes for prix st georges winner Mount St John De La Beaute, who exceeded 70% despite missing a shoe

## Young Beaute impresses at PSG

**Keysoe Regional Championships, Beds**

1-2 August

By **Stephanie Bateman**

**I**T takes experience and mettle to compete a relatively young horse at a regional championships. But to take a horse that has contested prix st georges (PSG) only four times, and go on to win the class with over 70% is sheer brilliance. And that's exactly what Emile Faurie did aboard Emma Blundell's stunning Mount St John De La Beaute – despite the mare only wearing three shoes.

"She pulled a hind shoe off in the stable and we tried all of Saturday afternoon to find a farrier, but had no luck," explained Emile. "Keysoe's on-site farrier

was on the golf course, and we tried two other local farriers with no joy, so I rode her with three shoes on."

Emile has had the ride on the seven-year-old by Don Romantic for two years and can't sing her praises highly enough.

"She is such an awesome horse with massive talent," he said. "Despite being only seven, she has the most amazing temperament and copes really well – she's so able."

"She's one of those horses that I just can't wait to get on every day."

Emile also took the runner-up spot riding Lady Rake's 13-year-old Hanoverian gelding Don Jon.

"He had one small blip in the walk pirouette, but considering it was only his third PSG, he did a

really sweet test," he said. "He's with me until the nationals and then Lady Rake will take him back to contest her first PSG with him."

It was a good weekend for team Faurie, as Emile's rider Tom Goode and Dior III produced a fluent and expressive test to take the advanced medium open on 73.03%.

Tom has been riding Sam Geddes' seven-year-old stallion by Gribaldi since he was a four-year-old, and this is his first year at advanced medium.

"He was a little spirited today, but he is an amazing horse," Tom said. "He's only been out twice this year, but he's got an amazing character and finds everything easy. He's a very exciting horse that I'm lucky to ride."

Another of Emma Blundell's

horses also secured a place at the nationals – Charlotte Dujardin rode Mount St John Freestyle to medium victory with 75.77%.

### 'Steer and hold your breath'

A new game plan, made up of a long journey and a jockey-style warm-up session, paid off for Darryl Thickitt, who took the open elementary with 75.47%. He was riding Catherine Gill's six-year-old mare, Flaniermaus.

"We left home at 11am on Saturday and arrived at Keysoe eight hours later – the fan belt snapped and we broke down in the 50mph zone on the M1," Darryl said. "It drained her a little bit, but helped calm her down."

"I took a different approach to my warm-up and cantered off her





Edited by  
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**DO YOU HAVE A DRESSAGE STORY?**  
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Despite breaking down en route, Darryl Thickitt claims an elementary on Flaniermaus

back for half an hour and she was more chilled in her test."

The mare by Florencio is fresh from the Shearwater young dressage horse championships at Hartpury College where she won the six-year-old class.

"She's quite a goer which is easy because you just steer and hold your breath," he added.

Little blips seemed to be a common occurrence. Julie Hugo-Ross' winning inter I test with Alivia II also had its glitches.

"Never in her life has she got her tongue over the bit, but she did as we were about to go in the arena," said Julie of Francis White's 10-year-old mare by Olivi. "At one point, I had my white glove inside her mouth putting her tongue back in the right place, and then three strides later, I was in the arena."

The pair just missed qualifying for the nationals on a number of

occasions, so it was a relief when they finally cracked it.

"I had a lesson with Carl [Hester] in the week, and was complaining that I hadn't qualified," she added. "He told me to just sock it to 'em with my lovely pirouettes, so I did."

Ashley Jenkins took the novice open title riding Imogen Byers' Showkia, by Showmaker. It is the second horse of Imogen's that Ashley has qualified for the nationals.

"He has three really good gaits and this was only the fifth test I have done on him," said Ashley, who rides for Daniel Greenwood.

Louise Gallavan, 17, followed up a week at the BYRDS home international by booking her place at nationals with a prelim victory. The Hartpury College student, who trains with Jackie Beaven, posted 72.76% to win aboard her Silvester gelding Silverstone. **H&H**

## AGAINST THE ODDS

'Being poorly meant we bonded'

MIRACLES can happen, as freelance rider and trainer Jack Boarder is finding out.

Only 10 months ago, his horse was lying on the operating table having his intestines untangled. Here, they stormed to victory in section A of the prelim championship at their first regionals, the only pair to score over 70%.

Jack, who is based with trainer and rider Keith Robertson in Hertfordshire, bought the six-year-old British-bred Charisma IV from his breeder Paul Friday in October 2014. Only four weeks later the horse had to undergo surgery.

"He's a pretty sizeable giant at 18.1hh, which the vets say is probably a major factor in his getting colic," explained Jack of the gelding by Cardinar. "Considering what's happened to him, I'm constantly in awe of what he's achieved and how much progress he is making."

"Charisma being poorly meant that I bonded with him more than I probably would have, so it has turned out to be quite positive. I'm really excited about his future."



## RESULTS

**1 Aug: prelim 15Q (C Brady).**—1, Belissimo (N Leake) 70.22. **rest.**—1, Coednewydd Beauty Star Albert (M Hodge) 72.39; 2, Dodgy Dave (L Prior) 71.96; 3, Nefyn Swirl (R Gair) 71.3. **BackInAction prelim 17Q rest sec A (W Fitness, K Barker, C Robinson).**—1, Charisma IV (J Boarder) 70.83; 2, Cimpernet (L Whyte) 68.91; 3, Zilver Actro (C Baker) 68.53. **sec B (C Elvin, S Andrews, A Scott).**—1, Silverstone (L Gallavan) 72.76; 2, Bounty (M McBride) 72.05; 3, Coednewydd Beauty Star Albert 69.94. **nov 37Q (C Davis).**—1, Aschwin (C Parsonage) 70.36; 2, Watling Shakira (M Greet) 68.21; 3, Sambuca III (L Casbolt) 67.68. **rest.**—1, Deo Volente III (N Brook) 77.14; 2, Enjoy K (D Harvey) 72.5; 3, Cuzelma (J Hattersich-Jones) 71.96. **Dodson & Horrell nov 39Q (C Thornton, J Head, I Auty).**—1, Showkia (A Jenkins) 72.76; 2, Kilnwood Drago (T Miall) 71.95; 3, Donnerscon (A Edwards-Sutton) 70.98. **rest (J Robinson, A Nicell, S Rowlands).**—1, Whatapallaver (M Gardner) 69.02; 2, Deo Volente III 68.91; 3, QEG Lux (F Horsepool) 68.33. **Fairfax Saddles FEI PSG (P Hayler, N Barrett, J Peberdy).**—1, Mount St John De La Beaute (E Faurie) 70.22; 2, Don Jon (E Faurie) 70.13; 3, Special (T Reeve-Smith) 68.9. **Saracen Horse Feeds FEI inter I (M Robins, D Trott, S McMahon).**—1, Alivia II (J Hugo-Ross) 70.39; 2, Royal Chester (A Hardwick) 69.3; 3, Dimaglik (B Martin) 68.55. **2 Aug: elem 57Q**

**(K Darlow).**—1, Horatio APG Stables (N Leak) 74.29; 2, Show Fox (D Greenwood) 72.68; 3, San Diego V (J Thompson) 69.64. **rest.**—1, Kittle Eclipse (S Brougham) 67.68; 2, Thymely Opposition (T Winger) 67.5; 3, Fancy Pants (A Matravets) 65.36. **Nettex elem 59Q sec A (J Harvey, I Auty, S McMahon).**—1, Flaniermaus (D Thickitt) 75.47; 2, Bewunder (J Hill) 73.53; 3, Filla (J Harkness) 72.66. **sec B (S Staines, A Bennie, A Scott).**—1, Bocelli (T Reeve-Smith) 73.7; 2, Diego (K Moloney) 70.1; 3, Quatre Pieds Blancs (K Head) 69.74. **rest (C Thornton, J Wood, K Barker).**—1, Bindro T (E Little) 71.46; 2, Elvis (H French) 68.28; 3, Stormshadow (K Storey) 68.18. **med 73Q (K Hancox).**—1, Pierre (N Leak) 66.76; 2, Horatio APG Stables 66.32; 3, Armstrong II (L Spencer) 65.88. **rest.**—1, Parisienne Jupiter (A Gladding) 67.06; 2, Welt Star (E Openshaw) 66.18; 3, Shannondale Cassio (G Hall) 66.18. **TopSpec med 75Q (D Rawlins, F Scott, S Rowlands).**—1, Mount St John Freestyle (C Dujardin) 75.77; 2, Dark Legend (Z Sleigh) 71.53; 3, Lonsweil (P Hayler) 71.35. **rest (M Robins, J Robinson, W Fitness).**—1, Cruz III (J Turney) 69.28; 2, Gregorian Chant (N Greenhill) 68.42; 3, Randolph X (A Brown) 67.79. **Equine Construction adv med 98Q (D Trott, H Clark, D Wardle).**—1, Dior III (T Goode) 71.97. **rest (L Inchcape, J Head, C Elvin).**—1, Highcliffe Apollo (D Thurman-Baker) 70.92; 2, Essentially M&S (H Bates) 69.17; 3, Ruban D'Or (C Hammond) 69.17.



Julie Hugo-Ross follows Carl Hester's advice to 'just sock it to 'em' to win at inter I on Alivia II, despite the mare getting her tongue over the bit moments before her test



# Aberdeenshire toasts home success

## The Cabin Regional Championships, Aberdeenshire

31 July–2 August  
By Melanie Scott

**L**OCAL breeding came to the fore with horses bred in Aberdeenshire heading two qualifiers.

Jennifer Johnston scored 72.52% with MFS Caliana to win the open medium and Debbie Murray rode Fancy Man MFS for 71.15% to top the elementary restricted championship.

Jennifer was pleased with the progress shown by her “talented but hot” MFS Caliana, an eight-year-old mare by the Moray Firth Stud’s MFS Vision (see box, p69).

“She was 100% with me and gave me a beautiful feeling, she’s more established and happy at this level,” said Jennifer.

Debbie and the Fidertanz seven-year-old “Fendi” are the reigning national novice champions and previously won the prelim championship at the winter championships in 2014.

“I’ve been putting pressure on myself recently and I’d been almost forgetting about the quality of pace,” said Debbie. “Thanks to my trainers Jennifer Johnston and Harry Payne we’ve got back on track and everything flowed today.”

Great Britain young rider team member Robyn Smith rode her mother Gail’s seven-year-old Florencia stallion Francesco 77 to achieve 73.44% in the open elementary.

“It was his first time competing outside since Somerford Premier League. He coped well and listened – he’s very encouraging,” said Robyn, a horsescotland performance squad member.

Concentrated effort in the run-up to the regionals proved worthwhile for Lauren Cowie, who headed the prelim on Coady Bay Brazil with 71.54%.

“We haven’t been out since May although we had boot camp last weekend with Eilidh Grant and two days of training with Hannah Biggs this week,” explained Lauren, who co-owns the Belissimo M six-year-old with her mother, Pat Cowie.

“I did the warm-up classes to



‘She was 100% with me’: MFS Caliana, by MFS Vision, gives her all at medium to secure a nationals ticket for Jennifer Johnston and the local Moray Firth Stud

get into the arena and was disappointed by the score, but it gave me a kick to ride positively today,” she added.

**Heale scores a one-two**  
PARAMEDIC Nicky Heale was thrilled with a one-two in the medium restricted. She won with Verity Jenner’s Seramai on 70.54%, with her own eight-year-old Welsh cob Retanach Request runner-up on 68.92%.

“I’m so chuffed with them both

– it’s been a fantastic weekend,” said Nicky. “The Cabin have done a fabulous job with great surfaces and a super atmosphere.”

The seven-year-old Scolari mare Seramai was also second in the elementary open with 71.93%.

“I felt that that was her better test as she’s done very little at medium level,” added Nicky. “She is a delight to ride and always tries.

“Retanach Request has given me lots of fun. I’d like to aim for

a prix st georges [PSG].”

It was mission accomplished for Claire Moore when claiming the PSG with Rendezvous.

“I’ve been to Hartpury for the winter championships but it’s been on my bucket list to qualify for the nationals. It was a super competition and The Cabin did a great job,” said Claire.

“His trot felt fabulous. I’ve been working on getting the changes more reliable and having more self-carriage,” said Claire of the 11-year-old by Rhodium.

There will be a double family celebration at the nationals as her son Harry will celebrate his first birthday.

“He arrived three weeks early during the nationals and mum and Eilidh [Grant] left the competition early to come back home,” explained Claire.

Scores were incredibly close in the inter I qualifier with only 1.5 marks separating the top three. Emma Blundell came out top with Keystone Diaz on 66.93%.

Emma’s stable jockey Lucinda Elliott achieved the weekend’s highest score of 74.7% in the novice restricted with the Bordeaux five-year-old Mount St John Best Of All. Lucinda also finished as runner-up with the Fürst Heinrich four-year-old Furstin Fugger.

Mhairi Niven will also be making her first visit to the nationals after winning the advanced medium restricted on Cocktail M.

“I rode for a nice, safe clear round,” said Mhairi, who explained that the Painted Black eight-year-old is mega talented but a big worrier when he goes



Claire Moore and Rendezvous book their place at nationals with a PSG victory

## AGAINST THE ODDS

### ‘Our first competition for 10 months’

IN a fairy-tale result, Jo Hamilton made her return to competition a winning one when topping the open advanced medium with Corchapin.

Jo spent nine weeks in hospital after receiving a serious head injury after a fall from “Colin” while training at home in December.

During Jo’s rehabilitation Colin was competed by Kate Cowell, who also trains with Carl Hester, for whom Jo was head girl for 10 years.

Colin arrived back at Jo’s less than a month before the regionals and Jo thanked Kate Cowell for looking after him.

“This is our first competition together in 10 months, he truly is my perfect partner,” said Jo.

They headed the warm-up on the opening day with 73.55% and the qualifier with 73.16%.



anywhere new.

"He's done a lot of 10km hacks this week and been twice to The Cabin for arena practice. I'm chuffed to qualify," added Mhairi.

A strong novice open entry contested the final class, where Jade Struthers set an early unassailable lead of 71.21% with Fayvel, Robert Morris' five-year-old Zizi Top stallion. **H&H**

## IN THE GENES

### Moray Firth Stud

THE stud was set up by Caroline and Gordon Ironside 19 years ago at their farm on the north-east coast near Banff. They have exported horses to Europe, USA, Canada, and the UAE for dressage and showjumping and have previously won the British Equestrian Federation Futurity series with a yearling.



'A delight to ride': Seramai, by Scolari, tops the medium restricted under Nicky Heale

## RESULTS

**Back/Action prelim 17Q rest (G Peters, D Lush, V Graham).**—1, Coady Bay Brazil (L Cowie) 71.54; 2, Belair LS (A Mackenzie) 67.44; 3, Roma III (M Cassie) 67.31. **Dodson & Horrell nov 39Q (D Lush, L Whetstone, V Graham).**—1, Fayvel (J Struthers) 71.21; 2, Caspari VC (K Thorne) 70.08; 3, Donnergott 70.06. **rest (H Brown, J Graham, C Ballantyne).**—1, Mount St John Best Of All (L Elliott) 74.08; 2, Furstin Fugger (L Elliott) 68.68; 3, Fidelis Semper (Y Watt) 66.44. **Nettex elem 59Q (C Ballantyne, J Graham, H Brown).**—1, Francesco 77 (R Smith) 73.44; 2, Seramai (N Heale) 71.93; 3, Spielbanker (S Lindop) 71.09. **rest (G Peters, L Whetstone, V Graham).**—1, Fancy Man MFS (D Murray) 71.15; 2, Cornelia (J Mason) 68.07; 3, Cordici K (S Leckie) 67.24. **TopSpec med 75Q (V Graham, J Graham, L Whetstone).**—1, MFS Caliana (J Johnston) 72.52; 2, Dizzy Heights (J Grant) 72.12; 3, Cocktail M 66.94. **rest (C Ballantyne, H Brown, G Peters).**—1, Seramai 70.54; 2, Retanach Request (N Heale) 68.92; 3, Dyffryncothi Bridget (B Tate) 66.08. **Equine Construction adv med 98Q (C Ballantyne, G Peters, H Brown).**—1, Corchapin (J Hamilton) 73.16; 2, Corienta (H Guild) 70.13; 3, Keystone Diaz (E Blundell) 68.73. **rest (V Graham, D Lush, L Wheatstone).**—1, Cocktail M 67.37; 2, Sandhaven (S Lindop) 66.45; 3, Ocho Gadio (L Grant) 65.7. **Fairfax Saddles PSG Q (D Lush, J Graham, L Wheatstone).**—1, Rendezvous (C Moore) 65.48; 2, Keystone Diaz 65.26; 3, Arctic Jazz (K Tullie) 65.18. **Saracen Horse Feeds inter I Q (L Wheatstone, J Graham, D Lush).**—1, Keystone Diaz 66.93; 2, Rendezvous 66.89; 3, Adventure (C Leckie) 66.8. **prelim 13Q rest (H Purvis).**—1, The Sundance Kid (S Mclean) 67.41; 2, FP Diamond Joker (F Quennell) 63.75; 3, Caledon M (E Mair) 60.21. **prelim 17Q (H Anderson).**—1, Ball Dancer (S Turpitt) 64.23. **rest.**—1, Cassana (Z Archer) 75; 2, Roma III 73.65; 3, Rainstow Pency (K Masson) 71.54.

**nov 28.**—1, Caveys Wizard (K Thorne) 76.46; 2, Duncky Bunch Bo (K Dewar) 74.58. **rest.**—1, Nordic Diamond Dan (A Sall) 72.5; 2, Stormhill Riverdance (R Milne) 63.13; 3, Calypso XI (A Middler) 59.79. **nov 39Q.**—1, Donnergott (R Johnston Harman) 78.1; 2, Caveys Wizard 76.38; 3, Duncky Bunch Bo 72.24. **rest.**—1, Nordic Diamond Dan 72.41; 2, Midsummer Skye (S Adam) 72.24; 3, Acapulco SP (S McCafferty) 71.55. **elem 44 (C Ballantyne).**—1, I-Dewels Indigo (T Peter) 73; 2, Waros (K Thorne) 71. **rest.**—1, L'Amour (H Ross) 64. **elem 59Q (J Graham).**—1, Francesco 77 72.03; 2, Seramai 69.22; 3, Spielbanker 69.06. **rest.**—1, Fancy Man MFS 67.19; 2, Midsummer Skye (S Adam) 62.66. **med 63Q rest (C Ballantyne).**—1, Balhagarty Lord Thomas (J Eddie) 60.34. **med 71Q.**—1, MFS Caliana 73.65; 2, Caspari VC (K Thorne) 68.65; 3, Verdi (V Gizzi) 64.19. **rest.**—1, Usparidie (K Dewar) 68.11; 2, The Silver Spirit (A Bowie) 63.51; 3, Calisto V (S Morrison) 61.35. **adv med 98Q (H Brown).**—1, Corchapin 73.55. **rest.**—1, Menelaos (L Prescott-Clements) 71.58; 2, Fortria Express (R Stephen) 61.18. **inter 1.**—1, Ridin'hill Everdon (F Maxwell) 64.08. **prelim 13Q rest (T Penna).**—1, Cassana 73.75; 2, The Sundance Kid 70; 3, Utopia (M Teague) 67.5. **nov 30Q.**—1, Caveys Wizard 73.27; 2, Crimscene (E Leslie) 70.7. **rest.**—1, Acapulco SP 68.08; 2, Aathos (A Macleod) 64.42. **elem 50Q.**—1, Chao Lingshan (S Grice) 69.48; 2, Two Tone (E Leslie) 68.93; 3, Hjerdal Astrid (S Mardon) 65.89. **rest.**—1, Rubensdale (L Littlejohn) 70.18; 2, Midsummer Skye 66.07; 3, Air Borne (A Sim) 65.18. **med 71Q (D Lush).**—1, Verdi II 62.42. **adv med 90Q (J Graham).**—1, Super Star (V Gladwyn) 65.17. **elem 50Q (G Peters).**—1, I-Dewels Indigo 71.25; 2, Lowhills Carricks Lady (S Mayberry) 69.64. **rest.**—1, Lettie White Diamond (E McIver) 66.25; 2, Midsummer Skye 65.89. **med 71Q (D Lush).**—1, Waros 66.61. **rest.**—1, Wilanja (S Stevens) 67.74; 2, Atletico C Winkle 65.32.

## COMMENT

Pammy Hutton



## 'Timing, accuracy and clarity'

IS dressage in need of a plain English campaign? The most helpful comment I've had so far this season was "get him on the bit" during an inter II warm-up, followed by "get him on the bloody bit". The timing, accuracy and clarity was spot-on.

But even when there's more time to absorb advice — when reading a test sheet for instance — shouldn't words of wisdom still be straightforward and understandable to all?

When I was a judge, the hardest aspect was learning what's perceived to be the required language. Whether it's a prelim or an advanced test, comments should be definite rather than a matter of degrees. We've all had one judge say "needs to be more forward", only for the next to remark "running".

When confusing words abound, care is needed about what's taken on board. At least my horse is either "on the bloody bit" or it's not.

### Milk, bread and early to bed

EVERY time I compete, which I do as it helps with my teaching, I get very nervous. Yes, even

at my age! To deal with the butterflies and feeling sick, I kick myself mentally and hard. It's a process I've come to know only too well.

Maybe my early days competing are to blame; like being sent to bed with milk and bread for having an unnecessary stop at a cross-country fence.

Or the time I was banned from riding a lovely horse for three months because I hadn't been in bed by 10pm, then rolled two poles in a Foxhunter jump-off. I knew the bedtime rule, and was always truthful... Or was it more recently, cantering in a piaffe and thus throwing British Dressage national championships qualification out of the window?

There is no universal fix for nerves; one competitor's saviour can be another's downfall. In my case "get a grip" works best. It's brilliant that our top riders have access to sports psychologists. The rest of us just have to get on, get into that arena and do it.

As I write, regional championships are making me nervous. Will I ever grow up?

### Instinct over theory

THEY say you should never alter anything just before a competition. But sometimes one has to risk change — in our case, a bridle for para rider Suzanna Hext.

As was often the case with Abira, owned by our son Charlie and me, he took to kissing his knees in his familiar double bridle. Overnight thinking prompted us to swap it for a snaffle. Even though Abira rarely works in one, it made a huge difference for the better.

Horses are animals, so need treating individually. And sometimes it's worth trusting instinct over theory.

### Perfection, down to the loos

IT was an absolute privilege to see so many British senior team members at Hartpury. Thank goodness the "we prefer to compete abroad" syndrome is no longer so fashionable. No wonder the crowds flocked to this friendly, well-organised show.

Hickstead had big screens, live scoring, electric bells and next year's team hopefuls trying hard. Two internationals back-to-back like this give selectors and fans alike a really good barometer.

It's many years since I complained about Hickstead's loos. Well, Dane Rawlins, your shows — and loos — are now perfect. You're to be congratulated for your vision, while all you do to encourage the young has not gone unnoticed.

Meanwhile at Stoneleigh, a reported 4,000 took part in the Trailblazers championships. With whole families having a wonderful time, that's what it's all about.

### Fighting for the fourth spot

THE first three choices for our senior European Championship team were never in doubt. But who would join Carl Hester with Nip Tuck, Charlotte Dujardin with Valegro and Fiona Bigwood with Atterupgaards Orthilia caused much speculation.

Michael Eilberg with Marakov is the perfect choice for team safety with his improving scores.

Spencer Wilton, named first reserve, is knocking firmly on the door with Super Nova. However, the partnership I really hope settles to the task in hand is Gareth Hughes and Classic Briolina. Wow, now that is a horse for an Olympic year. **H&H**



# Rumba get into winning rhythm

**BYRDS Home  
International, Richmond  
EC, North Yorks**

29–30 July

By Helen Scott

**T**HE North West Rumba team was on the ascendancy from the start, with a slew of wins and a mantra established by their chef d'équipe Moira Lafferty that had them labelled as the cool dudes of the competition.

Moira, a sports psychologist, has been working on team building with the whole squad – one mantra being “squad first, team second” – and encouraging them to focus on the things they could control, such as their performances, and letting go of those they couldn't, like the scores. So instead of huddling round the scoreboard, the team were out supporting each other and learning from watching other riders.

On day one, they scored victories in the novice from Holly Watson on her striking black Furstenball five-year-old Furst Oskar, and in the



'Most eye-catching' pair give judges goosebumps: Maddy Whelan's work with 'project' Ode To Shannon pays off with an elementary win

elementary from Maddy Whelan with Ode To Shannon. An additional novice second from Holly Needham and Cruz V, and a fifth in the medium from Emily Watts and Rascalini put the

team so far ahead they couldn't be beaten.

They followed up this form on day two, with a second for Ode To Shannon, third for Cruz V, seventh for Furst Oskar and a 12th for Rascalini, securing team glory.

Maddy, 12, has had the Connemara/thoroughbred Ode To Shannon for two years, the mare having come to her as a project.

“She couldn't even do prelim movements and was bad in her neck when she came to me, but I've worked hard on winning her confidence,” said Maddy. “Medium trot is now her best movement.”

Holly, who is trained by Gareth Hughes and Clive Halsall, harnessed Furst Oskar's elevated paces on day one, winning the warm-up class and the novice with plus-70% scores, but said

the gelding felt tired on day two.

Cruz V, piloted by Holly Needham to three plus-70% places, has a dual career as an eventer with Rosie Thomas, who competes him at CIC2\*, as well as Holly, who hopes to aim for eventing juniors with him next year.

## Irish success

THE Irish hadn't contested a home international for four years, but fielded a “craic” team of young riders on their development schemes.

Irish Emerald – Rachel Coulter with Gorsehill Maya, Tara Hayes on Bantiss Holy Joe, Megan McGrath and Romanno Frerejacques and Roisin Winters on Rhos Royal Velvet – lay fourth overnight but moved up following a second-place finish from Tara and a fourth from Roisin in the novice.

Rachel, who has had just two months' training with Maria Eilberg, said: “It's great to be here, and for the Irish wanting the dressage riders to be competing abroad.”

Laura Fisher, who at 24 years old was contesting her first and last BYRDS competition, won the elementary class on Sam The Man Veldhoek for the fourth-placed Wales Tom Jones team. She turned adversity to



Rachel Coulter and Gorsehill Maya spur Irish Emerald to team second on the podium

## TALKING POINTS

- Wet weather caused the white boards to get splashed during the first day, but Richmond's Donna Woods was determined they'd look smart for day two. She was spotted washing them at 5.30am.
- The Welsh contingent named their teams after famous Welsh singers,

and had a soundtrack for each team on an iPad. As the Wales Tom Jones team lay second overnight, the Welsh boyo was heard at full blast in the lorry park on Wednesday night.

- Olivia Whitelaw's Twylands Tiffin went for an unscheduled gallop round the lorry park after his stable door wasn't secured when he returned from his medium test. Catching him

proved a huge team effort, with around 30 people involved, but he went on to finish second in the FEI pony test.

- Maddy Whelan and Ode To Shannon were nominated as the most eye-catching combination by judges Andrea Smith, Cherry Elvin and BYRDS director Janet Horsewill, who said the hairs on the back of her neck went up when she saw them in the arena.





Team medals for North West Rumba (1), Irish Emerald (2) and Southern Lamborghini (3)

advantage after the 13-year-old gelding was diagnosed with navicular syndrome as he was about to go advanced eventing. They will now be competitive in dressage.

Anna Lawson, riding for Southern Ferrari, harnessed her "naughty" Carentino to win the medium on day one, but spooks and high spirits dropped them down on the second day.

Anna Jesty, riding as an individual for the South West, won both FEI junior tests on her Argentinus 12-year-old Aquiro.

Merlyn Latimer Smith on Valentino XVIII, competing as part of the third-placed Southern Lamborghini team, finished second in the junior test on day one before going on to win the next day's medium class. [H&H](#)

## RESULTS

29 July warm-up classes: nov 23 (L Smailes). – 1, Furst Oskar (H Watson) 73.3; 2, Cruz V (H Needham) 72.2; 3, Woodlands Prelude (E Pugh) 68.5. elem 43 (J Head). – 1, Abby (H Lucas) 75.6; 2, Ode To Shannon (M Whelan) 75.17; 3, Royal Rival (L Kerry). med 61 (A Smith). – 1, Quantos (H Grummett) 68.1; 2, Shiraz (S Gualtieri) 66.2; 3, Florencia 4 (S Fittin). home int: nov 37 (H Bradley, W Bell, C Elvin). – 1, Furst Oskar 73.6; 2, Cruz V 71.7; 3, McKenna (P Osborn) 71. elem 53 (S Carson, A Crane, J Robinson). – 1, Ode To Shannon 70; 2, Keystone Royal Chrystal (M Dawes) 59; 3, Ferrari (S Williams) 67.3. med 73 (F Scott, L Smith, C Tupling). – 1, Carentino (A Lawson) 67; 2, Baldovino (F Bradley) 67.6; 3, Basantos (AS Gilson) 67.4. FEI pony team (G Lewis, A Mastin Moore, J McGarrel Groves). – 1, Twylands Tiffin (O Whitelaw) 65.21; 2,

Hesselteichs Desert Rose (P Kearns) 65.09; 3, Tisrara Hill (E Robinson) 63.89. FEI jnr team. – 1, Aquiro (A Jesty) 67.61; 2, Valentino XVIII (M Latimer Smith) 65.81; 3, Vazire (L Latimer Smith) 65.32. 30 July 30: nov 39 (A Mastin Moore, S Staines, A Bostock). – 1, Woodlands Prelude (E Pugh) 71.26; 2, Bantiss Holy Joe (T Hayes) 70.80; 3, Cruz V 70.69. elem 59 (A Smith, G Lewis, C Elvin). – 1, Sam The Man Veldhoek (L Fisher) 69.17; 2, Ode To Shannon 69.06; 3, Aquisator (B Watson) 68.18. med 75 (J Robinson, J McGarrel Groves, J Head). – 1, Valentino XVIII 67.21; 2, Quantos (H Grummett) 66.49; 3, Tajidora (I Chaplin) 66.49. FEI pony team (F Scott, V Smyth, S Carson). – 1, Hesselteichs Desert Rose 65.68; 2, Twylands Tiffin 64.06; 3, Tisrara Hill 61.97. FEI jnr team. – 1, Aquiro 67.97; 2, Vazire 66.58; 3, Di Spirito (J Harding-Heitzmann) 65.23.



Holly Watson and her Furstenball five-year-old Furst Oskar gain plus-70% scores to claim warm-up and novice titles, and contribute to a team win for North West Rumba

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SOUTH

# Santaire is back on top form

**SOUTH:** 'The best horse I've ever owned' – accident-prone Santaire, by Scolari, returns to his best under Tiggi Bentley, exceeding 73% at elementary and medium



A young rider receives a birthday surprise, a six-year-old clocks up his sixth win and a British team member has high hopes for her new ride. We bring you all the dressage action from across the country

**D**ESPITE torrential rain, some horses dug deep for their riders at **Classic Dressage**, Bucks (26 July), and achieved high scores, reports *Helen Triggs*.

Tiggi Bentley's accident-prone seven-year-old Santaire, by Scolari, has had a string of high-scoring results in between his injuries. His elementary score of 76.4% was close to his personal

best and he topped 73% in the medium qualifier.

"He had been off work with a fractured splint bone when we went to the winter championships and it was a disaster," said Tiggi.

"Today's elementary was the best he's done and he felt really strong. The medium 75 was tough for him as it was only his third medium test and he did throw in a change in the counter canter.

"He's the best horse I've ever owned," she added. "He's not the flashiest but is very rhythmic and supple. Now I want to strengthen him up without too much mental pressure."

Katie Baldwin bought Moelfryn Golden Wonder to event just under a year ago. The nine-year-old has a mix of Welsh section D, Cleveland Bay and thoroughbred blood. This was his second

affiliated competition and he scored a personal best of 75.57% in the prelim, as well as coming second in the novice.

"He has beautiful paces and we've been working hard to get these scores. We mainly event as it's hard to find the time to do both, but over the winter I want to do more dressage and hopefully get him qualified," said Katie, who is an estate agent.



## WALES &amp; WEST

# Birthday double for Harvey

**D**AVID HARVEY had plenty to celebrate at **Hunters EC, Glos** (26 July), heading two classes to the delight of a surprise fan club of relatives who had travelled from the Orkney Islands to mark his 21st birthday, writes *Andrea Oakes*.

David, who rides for Pammy Hutton, won the novice 24 on Victoria Moss's six-year-old Dimaggio mare Dizzy Rascal.

"She's a chestnut mare and has the odd strop day, but she generally takes everything in her stride," said David.

The mare was eliminated from the next class for wearing boots.

"It was pouring down and all my help left me to go inside," David explained. "I was too busy warming up to think about what was on her legs – it's a lesson to learn from."

David describes his elementary

44 winner, Enjoy K, as "a bit of a rebel".

"We have our ups and downs, but even when he's being a thug he makes me laugh," he said of Pammy and Stephen Day's six-year-old Vivaldi gelding.

Another Vivaldi son, Expression M, scored a 74.72% novice freestyle qualifier win at **Summerhouse EC, Glos** (24 July), under Dellerie Chambers.

Dellerie broke two ribs and a wrist when Expression M was spooked by a flapping roof panel at the home international last year and "decanted" her.

"He has been based at Lucy Nelson's yard since February, where they've been doing Parelli with him," she said. "He's a changed horse. The rain was torrential today, but he went beautifully and never looked at a thing."



WALES & WEST: 'Even when he's being a thug he makes me laugh' – the rebellious Vivaldi six-year-old Enjoy K behaves to give David Harvey a birthday win at elementary



NORTH-WEST: 'A real superstar' – Johnson Jaz and Jane Boothroyd win an elementary

## NORTH-WEST

## Jaz grows in confidence

JANE BOOTHROYD and Johnson Jaz won the elementary 53 qualifier at **Beaver Hall, Staffs** (25 July), writes *Jo Prestwich*.

Jane competed Jaz's dam Salsa Dancer up to elementary, and bought the now nine-year-old Jaz in-utero at the Brightwells sale.

"I had a mare in-foal at home and bought Salsa so I'd have two foals to keep each other company," said Jane.

"Jaz has turned into a real superstar. He's the most gorgeous horse to have at home, which is great as I have rheumatoid arthritis and he looks out for me. He does get a bit nervous at shows but he is getting better and better."

Jo Stoyell made her first attempt at an inter I a winning one at **Field House EC, Staffs** (23 July), riding her own Tamaimo. Jo bought the Dutch-bred De Niro x Caprimond gelding four years ago.

"I'd retired my old horse who

had then proceeded to break my foot, so I was feeling very frustrated," said Jo. "To be honest I wasn't even going to look at him as I thought he was too big, but my mum, Jenny, twisted my arm and made me go."

David Lannon's good run of form continued as he clocked up a tally of four medium wins at both **Crow Wood, Lancs** (22 July) and **Bold Heath, Cheshire** (26 July), riding Laura Way's Raimillies. Next stop for the Relevant gelding is the Northern regionals at Port Royal this weekend.

"I've had a couple of lessons recently from Jess Dunn and it has given me a real kick up the backside," said David, who is planning to move up to advanced medium after the regionals.

## NORTH

## Maureen's no one-trick pony

MAUREEN LENNON fitted in a quick trip to **Port Royal EC, East Yorks** (25 July), where she won both prelims on Joyce Fearn's





NORTH: Maureen Lennon and Flayne Dandini warm up for regionals with two prelim wins

Flayne Dandini with plus-70% scores. The outing served as a warm-up for the regionals, writes *Helen Scott*.

Maureen combines riding dressage horses with running Bellow Theatre Company, which is in final rehearsals for upcoming performances at the Edinburgh fringe.

"We start in Edinburgh a few days before the regionals, so I'll be back down to ride but wanted to be as well prepared as possible," she explained.

"I've been working for Joyce for many years, and am lucky that, since I finished university, she has let me combine my passion for theatre with riding some of her young horses."

Flayne Dandini is a six-year-old son of Don Frederico, and Maureen hopes they will progress from the winter regionals where they finished just outside the placings.

Nicola Sanderson has a smart six-year-old prospect in Edith Tucker's Szerafina, and they completed their qualification for the winters in just two outings. The combination won both novice classes at **Northallerton EC**, North Yorks (23 July), with plus-70% scores.

The mare is by Sir Alfred x Sandro Hit out of a Warkant mare, and was imported by the Woodcroft Stud.

"She did a couple of young

horse classes, but we didn't feel that she was ready to begin competing properly until now," said Nicola, who trains with Ian Woodhead. "She's only been out twice but has really shown her potential."

Judge Gail Williams couldn't split Christina Foley on Caruno II and Meghan Anderson on Logs Master Flashdance in the prelim qualifier at **Holmside Hall EC**, Co. Durham (26 July). She had them both to win on identical scores and collectives.



SOUTH-EAST: Furst Class clocks up six wins in six outings at novice with Kay Swabey

## SOUTH-EAST Young horse shows his Class

THE Furst Romancier stallion Furst Class continues to reward Kay Swabey with winning scores, reports *Celia Cadwallader*.

The six-year-old, bred by Suzanne Lavandera out of a Breiiting W mare, has won every time he's competed. He recorded his fifth and sixth firsts at novice at **Stilebridge**, Kent (25 July), scoring 67.58% and 69.35%.

"I'm very proud of 'Fabio'," commented Kay. "He has a wonderful temperament and three good basic paces, but he's not yet used to having other horses so close to him in the warm-up, so he can get worried."

"If I can keep him relaxed, he gives me a soft, flowing test."

Donna Johnston and Egano Star produced a 71.83% medium freestyle at **Blue Barn**, Kent (22 July).

It was only Donna's second music class.

"Trying to find the right music for my horse was putting me off," Donna said. "But then I signed up for an Equivisions workshop with Steph Croxford. They worked out the floorplan, videoed me and

produced the Fleetwood Mac compilation.

"I had a big grin on my face riding it, thinking, 'I don't mind if this goes wrong, I'm just loving it'. I can't wait to do it again."

Suellen White's Da Vinci is making up for a late career start. With Claire Stryzyk on board, the Uptown x Sultan seven-year-old won the novices with 70% and 69.64% on his affiliated debut.

Suellen explained:

"'Vinnie' injured a deep digital flexor tendon in a hoof as a three-year-old and had 18 months off. He went straight to Lamb Equestrian near Canterbury after surgery for rehabilitation. It's so

nice there that we stayed.

"Claire and I both compete Vinnie. It's my thank you to her for riding him a couple of times during the week, while I'm working."

## CENTRAL Weighty win for Orford

HGV lorry driver Kathryn Orford scored the highest percentage of the day when winning prelim 19 with 71.59% at **Solihull RC**, West Mids (23 July), reports *Stephanie Bateman*.

Kathryn was riding her 10-year-old Shire/thoroughbred gelding Comyn Camino, whom she has owned since he was 15 months old.

The pair enjoy weekly lessons with trainer Liz Every.

"We've had a few comments about engagement of the hindquarters, so that's what we've been working on," said Kathryn. "It must be paying off because we haven't had any comments on that recently."

"He's a lovely chap which I'm pretty grateful for because he's rather big at 17hh. It's a long way to fall if he takes a dislike to you."

At **Addington Manor EC**, Bucks (23 July), Edward Johnson and Anfisa Ershova's seven-year-old gelding Destiny I won both elementaries with plus-70%.

Anfisa, who owns Equitopia, a yard in Hemel Hempstead, bought the Hanoverian by Danone I last February.

"Edward has been teaching me for three years, and when I got stuck at novice with 'Tintin', I





**CENTRAL:** Martin Schleicher continues his good form, claiming a triple win and breaking the 80% barrier at novice aboard the Showmaker five-year-old Shonette



**SOUTH-WEST:** Training with Anna Ross pays off for Alex Baker, 19, and her own Nibeley UJ Lady Lara, as they scoop victory at advanced medium, and aim for PSG

asked him to have a go – he said he believed he had huge potential,” said Anfisa. “I now enjoy being an owner.”

Martin Schleicher is enjoying a run of good form, winning three classes at **Swallowfield EC**, Warks (23 July), with a plus-80% score in novice 38 riding Kath and Miles Moreton’s five-year-old Showmaker gelding, Shonette.

He also partnered Peter and Pippa Geddes’ Tom Cruz, by Breitling W, to win elementary 43 with 77.06%.

Another seven-year-old gelding by Uphill, Mollie Sears’ Dimna, impressed at **Houghton Hall**, Cambs (22 July). Mollie, 14, scored 75% to head the prelim 17, the highest score that day.

Mollie has owned Dimna since March, and he has grown since then, now standing at 17.1hh.

“I don’t look small on him,” Mollie said. “The test felt lovely and relaxed – he can sometimes struggle with tension but he trusts me now.

“Eleanor Collins is my main trainer on Dimna and we have been working on relaxing him. He is learning to trust what I ask of him.

“I have also been working on strengthening my core muscles, as a knee operation in the winter kept me out of the saddle for a long time. Hopefully, I’m coming back stronger than ever,” added the teenager, who also trains with Alex Hardwick and Michael Eilberg.

## SOUTH-WEST

### Baker’s got the bling

ALEX BAKER won the pick-your-own riding advanced medium 92 at **Cholderton EC**, Wilts (26 July), on her eight-year-old Nibeley UJ Lady Lara, by Nibeley Union Jack, writes *Annabel Kerby*. Alex, 19, has been based with Anna Ross since May.

“I was just trotting around at medium level before I came to Anna’s and now we’re aiming for prix st georges [PSG] before the end of the year,” said Alex.

“It’s been hard work, but she’s now got a lot more expression in her way of going,” added Alex. “As Anna says, ‘there’s a lot more bling in everything we do’.”

Victoria Leabeater claimed the elementary 40 restricted with plus-70% on Dolces E, and the novice restricted 38 qualifier on Heather Cato’s Vincent II.

Romsey-based Victoria, 18, who is trained by Heather Ashley and Roland Tong, has just started her gap year, in which she is going to concentrate on eventing.

“I rode Dolces E [by Karioka Del Follee], in a double bridle competitively for the first time and it was a great success,” said Victoria.

“She can be a bit opinionated and Roland has helped me with her a lot. He seems to know how

## EAST

### Droomprins charms the judges

IN a strong elementary qualifier at **Fenning Farm**, Cambs (26 July), Caroline Bridge posted the highest score of the day with 75% on Trooper Bridge (Stakkato x Laptop), while Steph Cason took the restricted section with plus-72%, writes *Selene Scarsi*.

Steph was riding her own Droomprins, an Uphill x Cabochon seven-year-old she bought as an unbacked three-year-old.

“We got very wet – we had a downpour just as we went in,” said Steph, who used the outing as preparation for the regionals the following weekend.

“He was more engaged than usual, which was commented on by judge Anita Darken.”



**EAST:** Steph Cason and Droomprins, by Uphill, post plus-72% to head an elementary



to get inside mares' heads and has helped me do the same."

Victoria has been riding the 13-year-old Vincent II since April.

"We're trying to develop as a partnership and his test was flowing better today, considering the wet and windy weather in the warm-up," said Victoria.

## SCOTLAND

### Santa gives McNeil a great present

SHEONA MCNEIL accounted for two medium qualifiers at **Morris EC**, Ayrshire (24-26 July) with Santa's Ghost, writes *Melanie Scott*.

"He probably would have been really quite good if he had gone to a dressage diva and not an all-round riding club amateur," said Sheona, who organises writers for Morris' monthly dressage competitions, and originally bought the Santa's Sleigh chestnut gelding 12 years ago from former owner of the centre, Lady Rowallan.

"Santa' has turned his hoof to everything I have asked of him," she added.

"He's 19 now, but I'm just so pleased that he's still competitive.

This year we won the Scottish pre-veteran medium and over-60 medium championships, and also several riding horse classes."

At **Ladyleys EC**, Aberdeenshire (25-26 July), freelance instructor Sue Grice rode her home-bred Lingham gelding Chao Lingshan to head an elementary.

The eight-year-old is out of Tianshan, a Rothensandy mare Sue competed at advanced medium who is now semi-retired.

"He's been straightforward and easy and very willing to learn," said Sue, who teaches natural horsemanship groundwork handling skills and recently launched a horse care and management interactive online equine studies course.

Showjumper Harriet Ross has successfully temporarily switched disciplines to qualify her sister Pippa's five-year-old Laurentino mare L'Armour for the regionals. They scored 72% to win a novice while Pippa is away working at Camp America.

"It's been a learning curve for me – I'm usually jumping 1.30m courses," said Harriet. "L'Armour is very easy and nothing fazes her; she's consistently scoring 70% and is ready to move up to elementary." **H&H**

## ONE TO WATCH

### Francesco 77

GREAT BRITAIN young rider team member Robyn Smith, 19, has high hopes for her new ride Francesco 77, after scoring 75% in an elementary qualifier at Morris EC.

The Florencio x Sandro Hit seven-year-old 'Franklin' was purchased in October after an 18-month search.

"He's beautifully behaved and a gentle giant," said Robyn, part of the seventh-placed British team at the young rider European Championships at Vidauban last month. She finished 25th individually and achieved two personal bests with her mother Gail's home-bred Foold Uz.

"Franklin had had very little competition experience but I'm thrilled with his attitude. He enjoys learning; after training it's like he goes back to his room and reads his notes and shows what he's learned the next day," said Robyn.



## RESULTS

### FENNING FARM

Camps, 26 July

**Prelim 14Q (P Connolly).** – 1, Jacques Colore (R Thompson) 65.83; 2, Cicean Siren (T Long) 60.62. **rest.** – 1, Libby (TA Walker) 66.25; 2, Twyford Nicolette (S Raven) 66.25. **prelim 19Q (A Darken).** – 1, Jacques Colore 66.13; 2, Cicean Siren 53.18. **rest.** – 1, Feisty (S Ashworth) 68.63; 2, Boomerang Blue (C Wood) 65.22; 3, Twyford Nicolette 57.72. **nov 27 (J Lywood).** – 1, Kirkash Shady Lady (S Wright) 62.14. **rest.** – 1, Solo Choice (N Smith) 68.75; 2, Feisty 64.46; 3, Bugac Turbo (E Raine) 61.78. **nov 38Q (A Darken).** – 1, Kirkash Shady Lady 59.03. **rest.** – 1, Solo Choice 66.93; 2, Japonica (K Short) 50.32; 3, Bugac Turbo 47.58. **elem 44 (J Lywood).** – 1, Trooper Bridge (C Bridge) 68.6. **rest.** – 1, Gerda's Delight (K Nash) 69. **elem 57Q (A Darken).** – 1, Trooper Bridge 75. **rest.** – 1, Droomprins (S Cason) 72.67; 2, Gerda's Delight 68.39. **med 63 rest (P Bushell).** – 1, Glucksbringer (M Sampson) 63.27; 2, Wouldknot (E Holmes) 63.27. **med 75Q rest.** – 1, The Joker's Friend (S Motion) 61.89; 2, Glucksbringer 61.75; 3, Wouldknot 60.81. **adv med 94 rest.** – 1, Broomfield Rex (M Fowles) 64.11. **adv med 98Q rest.** – 1, Broomfield Rex 60.26. **PYO adv.** – 1, Atila (D Kotak) 61.02.

### LADYLEYS EC

Aberdeenshire, 25-26 July

**Nov 27 (P Baker).** – 1, Sonnersted (V Gladwyn) 73.2. **rest.** – 1, L'Armour (H Ross) 72; 2, Bosman (S Duncan) 70.7; 3, Bryncendi Samuel (H Gunnyon) 70.4. **nov 39Q (S Cruikshank).** – 1, Sonnersted 66.6. **rest.** – 1, Bryncendi Samuel 67.2; 2, Royal Riablo (D Watt) 66.4; 3, L'Armour 72; 2, Bosman (S Duncan) 70.7; 3, L'Armour 66. **nov FSM Q rest.** – 1, Royal Riablo 64.2; 2, Ballymark (G Kettles) 60.8. **elem FSM Q rest (G Peters).** – 1, Ballymark 57.1. **adv med FSM Q rest.** – 1, Corienta (H Guild) 73.2. **elem 43 rest (S Cruikshank).** – 1, Gransiread Basil (S Fraser) 65.9; 2, Zenos (K Wilson) 64.1; 3,

Jack XI (C Rankin) 63.8. **elem 57Q rest.** – 1, Zenos 62.5. **adv med 92 (G Peters).** – 1, Super Star (V Gladwyn) 63.1. **adv med 98Q.** – 1, Corienta 70.9; 2, Super Star 62.4. **PSG Q.** – 1, Ridinghill Everdon (F Maxwell) 65.3. **adv med 85 rest (J Scoular).** – 1, Take This (E McDonald) 65.9. **med 69.** – 1, Wiljanja (S Stevens) 67.1; 2, Take This (E McDonald) 65. **elem 44.** – 1, Chao Lingshan (S Grice) 70.2; 2, MKM Sabella (C Hamilton) 67.2; 3, Hjerdal Astrid (S Mardon) 68.2. **rest.** – 1, Dagen (C Thomas) 67.4; 2, Trenawin Lucca (J Jeffries) 66.2; 3, Gransiread Basil 63.2. **med 75Q rest.** – 1, Wiljanja 66.1. **elem 59Q.** – 1, MKM Sabella 68.8; 2, Chao Lingshan 68.8; 3, Hjerdal Astrid 64.2. **rest.** – 1, Dagen 67.2; 2, Trenawin Lucca 66.39; 3, Fancy Man MFS 65.8.

### KEYSOE

Beds, 25 July

**RoR Intro A (C Alston).** – 1, Daneglow (E Graves) 66.52; 2, Possol (A Mills) 64.13; 3, Gwynthryn Mr Darcy (S Ryan) 63.91. **prelim 15Q rest (L Leicester).** – 1, Coolio (J Felton) 66.96; 2, Cimpnerel (L Whyte) 65.43; 3, Silver Spirit (M Brophy) 64.57. **RoR prelim 15.** – 1, Daneglow 67.61; 2, Cimpnerel 67.39; 3, Fort Severn (Y Mason) 64.35. **prelim 17Q rest (C Alston).** – 1, Leverage (H Jackson) 69.81; 2, Cimpnerel 68.65; 3, Anacreon (CJ Wright) 67.88. **nov 23 (C Brady).** – 1, First Diamond (A Richter) 69.26; 2, Fannini (J Price) 68.7; 3, Woodcroft Krack De (A Brown) 68.15. **rest.** – 1, Nefyn Swirl (R Gair) 65; 2, Gryffan (J Grote) 64.81; 3, Anacreon 64.81. **RoR nov 23.** – 1, Parakeet (A Bostock) 63.89; 2, Baikaline (A Mills) 63.7; 3, Leverage 63.33. **nov 39Q (L Leicester).** – 1, SJL Flugel (A Brown) 73.45; 2, Woodcroft Krack De 72.93; 3, Eaton I (M Day) 70.93. **rest.** – 1, Gryffan 68.28; 2, Gwynie (CA Davey) 66.38; 3, Nefyn Swirl 65.86. **elem 45 (A Hessay).** – 1, Quatre Pieds Blancs (K Head) 73.62; 2, Sweet Lucy Loo (D Ware) 70; 3, Donnercon (A Edwards-Sutton) 68.62. **rest.** – 1, Dayrells Pete (J Unsworth) 64.83; 2, Don Tolstoy (J Chalmers) 64.66; 3, Daisy May II (A Dugdale) 61.9. **elem 59Q**

(J Ward). – 1, Bocelli (T Reeve-Smith) 72.5; 2, Pezi Classic (J Hugo-Ross) 71.56; 3, Donnercon 67.19. **rest.** – 1, Storm Shadow (K Storey) 67.97; 2, Daisy May II 63.59; 3, Don Tolstoy 62.97. **med 61 (J Head).** – 1, HRH Romancier (C Adams) 71.55; 2, Classic DeeJay (C Porz) 69.14; 3, Casey Vestervang (B Skipper) 67.76. **rest.** – 1, Hofrat (J Price) 65; 2, Danewood Clover Lad (L Olsen) 62.07. **med 75Q (A Hessay).** – 1, Bocelli 70.81; 2, Classic DeeJay 65.27; 3, Cincinnati V (G Fullen) 65.14. **rest.** – 1, SJL Duuk (A Brown) 67.7; 2, Randolph X (A Brown) 65.68; 3, Divine Intervention (T Baker) 64.05. **adv med 98Q (J Head).** – 1, Blitz (J Harvey) 75.66; 2, Atlanta W (L Osman) 68.42; 3, AB (L Keenan) 68.29. **rest.** – 1, Charlton (T Nelson) 66.84; 2, Clouded Vision (L Williams) 63.42. **PYO (J Ward).** – 1, Longdean Rising Star (J Weekes) inter I 65.9; 2, Premier Royal Mint (A McLean) adv 65; 3, Special (T Reeve-Smith) PSG 62.8.

### OLDENCRAIG

Surrey, 24 July

**Prelim 17Q (J Kendall).** – 1, Esperado (T Perry) 57.69. **rest.** – 1, Tristin (S Allardyce) 69.42; 2, Oldencraig Fuego (C Barrett) 66.15; 3, Teddy Bear (O Gould) 64.8. **nov 37Q (B Wright).** – 1, Esperado 66.07; 2, Chance SP (S Kent) 63.21; 3, Frostegards Filur (R Piddlesden) 63.03. **rest.** – 1eq, Oldencraig Fuego & Tristin 63.39; 3, Brockley's Boy (S Viten) 51.07. **nov FSM Q.** – 1, Blue Movie (S Brooks) 69.44. **rest.** – 1, Country Top Spec (D Fleming) 59.16. **elem 59Q (J Kendall).** – 1, Dancing Dreams (L Wells) 72.5; 2, Domino Day (S Edwards) 69.68. **rest.** – 1, Oldencraig Chocotoff (E Manning) 70.62; 2, Chance SP 67.34; 3, Half Moon Bonarda (S Parkinson) 67.18. **elem FSM Q rest (B Wright).** – 1, Blue Movie 64.61; 2, Eliseo (L Allen) 59.42. **med 75Q (J Kendall).** – 1, Bewunder (J Hill) 72.43; 2, Riverdell Royal Jazz (S Hansen) 67.29. **rest.** – 1, Oldencraig Chocotoff 64.73; 2, Rochester I (S Brown) 64.32; 3, Cassis (M Scott) 62.7. **med FSM Q (A Brunton).** – 1, Bewunder 71.33. **rest.** – 1, Ontario II (T

Harvey) 64.33; 2, Rochester I 63. **adv med 85.** – 1, Riverdell Royal Jazz 66.17; 2, Chazz (S Hansen) 65.14; 3, Don Diablo (I Waite) 64.85. **PSG FSM Q.** – 1, Disneyland (M Brown) 61.87; 2, Picasso (L Warner) 57.5.

### SUMMERHOUSE EC

Glos, 24 Jul

**Nov 39Q (S Harcombe).** – 1, Beule (P Jaggs) 75.69; 2, Extasia (L Summers) 74.31; 3, GF Buick (M Forrest) 73.79. **rest.** – 1, Hilldown Parsley (G Todd) 70.17; 2, Skylark (H White) 68.44; 3, Singing Killmanjaro (A Lloyd) 67.75. **elem 53Q (S Duffy).** – 1, Woodlander Buddy Holly (L Wollen) 71.32; 2, Ruxton Showgirl (M Phillips) 69.55; 3, Carpinus (A Peternell) 65.73. **rest.** – 1, Beule 67.05; 2, Quarry Edge Minstrel (H Bloxham) 64.7; 3, Banter (C Chamberlayne) 64.41. **med 75Q (A Hessay).** – 1, Chevalier O (D Greenwood) 66.62; 2, Moveworld (M Forrest) 65.13; 3, Bonvivant (A Peternell) 65. **rest.** – 1, Fiderstan (J Guyton) 64.45; 2, Mad About U (S Brown) 63.1; 3, Taleka (H White) 62.7. **adv med 98Q.** – 1, Rock DJ (M Rigge) 65.52. **rest.** – 1, Tausendassa (T Wright) 60.52; 2, Kasper Van Lan Gewold (A Spickett) 59.73. **PSG Q (T Thorne).** – 1, Plutonium (A Peternell) 66.31; 2, Vladimir II (S Thorndale) 66.18; 3, Willis (J Morris) 64.21. **nov FSM Q.** – 1, Expression M (D Chambers) 74.72; 2, Extasia 71.38; 3, Mistress Zadorabelle (D Fews) 70.55. **rest.** – 1, Hilldown Parsley 64.44; 2, Shanbally Lucky Stripe (S Eeley) 64.16. **elem FSM Q.** – 1, Woodlander Buddy Holly 80.19; 2, Extasia 69.8. **rest.** – 1, Ravenswing (N Hill) 69.42; 2, Donna Ravallino (W Hudson) 69.42; 3, Sparrow Hall Mr Darcy (L Hamblett) 65.19. **med FSM Q (C Inchcape).** – 1, Umberto IV (A Baker) 66.66; 2, Zorba (L Allan) 61.16. **rest.** – 1, Water Kelpie (G Marven) 70; 2, Saffron XII (S Ward) 65.66; 3, Shamassa Spring (J Stares) 55.33. **adv med FSM Q.** – 1eq, Mister Samson (L Darby) & Penstumbly Abergwaun (D Hill) 67. **PSG FSM Q.** – 1, Sheepcote Delight (B Barnett) 70.75; 2, Rock DJ 66.5; 3, Fan-Set (A Peternell) 66.5.

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# Quigley and Kent share the honours



Dave Quigley books his place in the Foxhunter final at HOYS aboard EIS Datero H...



... as does Morgan Kent and 10-year-old Furioso, who share the victory

## Arena UK, Grantham, Lincs

23–27 July

By Suzanne Jones

**I**n a rare result, the *Horse & Hound* Foxhunter was shared between Dave Quigley with EIS Datero H and Morgan Kent on HK Horses' Furioso, equalling on time for the coveted Horse of the Year Show (HOYS) tickets.

From a field of 88, 18 reached the jump-off, with John Whitaker

and Cassini's Chaplin setting a seemingly fast target.

Increasingly risky turns successively earned the lead until Dave sliced half a second from Vicky Young's time on Cleo VII.

Dave acquired Datero a year ago – the Zapatero seven-year-old is owned by Equi Investments Showjumping, a syndicate of 12 investors organised by Rupert and Izzy Webb.

"He jumped in Spain but I've taken him quietly and not done

much with him, although he had to go fast today," said Dave of the gelding bought from Ashford Farm's Enda Carroll – an Irishman now based in Belgium who spent two years in England with Dave a decade ago.

Last-drawn Morgan discussed tactics with her partner Richard Howley.

"The only options were treble clear [for another chance at HOYS qualification at the national championships] or win, and as we're going to Millstreet not Stoneleigh, I had to go fast," said Morgan.

Following Richard's instructions to "keep tight to the wings and keep balanced," Morgan and the 10-year-old Furioso equalled Dave's time.

"He's careful, I can trust him, and he's brave enough to take anything on," said Morgan, who bought the Orlando gelding – a 2014 HOYS grade C and talent seekers finalist – two years ago.

Team Howley/Kent enjoyed a

good show, with Richard topping a mammoth 162-strong talent seekers on Chinook III.

Also gaining HOYS tickets were Tracy Priest's Silverstone eight-year-old Caristo VDL, Mark Turnbull's eight-year-old Cartouch III, and Anna Edwards on Bina Ford's seven-year-old Darling.

Holly Gillott claimed the HOYS newcomers with Elore, winner of the Allington two-star six-year-old class here in June. Holly believes the Namelus R daughter will take over from her top horse Dougie Douglas one day.

"She has the same strike rate as Dougie at this age," said Holly, who is also through to the *Horse & Hound* Foxhunter final.

Pippa Goddard snared second on Peter Charles' Dauphin, a seven-year-old Dutch-bred mare she has ridden since March.

Louise Saywell won the 1.40m on Mr Darcy V, relegating Anna Edwards with Blazer B – winners of an earlier 1.40m. **H&H**

## ONE TO WATCH

### Chinook III

THE winner of the talent seekers immediately impressed when Richard Howley took over the ride in June. At their first show, the Tygo x Wellington eight-year-old headed Northcote Stud's 1.40m grand prix when still eligible for British novice. A former eventer now owned by George Aitkenhead, he was upgraded to grade B and topped Bramham's grand prix. He also gained two second placings during the Hickstead Derby meeting.

"I've worked on his flatwork as he's hot-headed, but he's started to relax and has greatly improved," said Richard. "He's scopey and finds that part easy. Hopefully there are big days to come – he has a bright future ahead."



The Little Squire 'surprises' Jodie Hall-McAteer to win pony showjumper of the year

## Quick Little Squire takes the ribbons

**Welsh Home Pony International, Monmouthshire**

23-26 July

By Suzanne Jones

**J**ODIE HALL-MCATEER worked hard for the pony showjumper of the year with The Little Squire, guiding him over a tough, technical track.

"He's green at this level, it's one of the biggest tracks he's jumped," said Jodie of the Irish-bred nine-year-old, who was then travelling to Hickstead to defend his 2014 Royal International Horse Show (RIHS) JC title.

"He only stepped up to JA this year, so we drop him down a level occasionally to keep his confidence. I was surprised we won as I didn't make any tight turns because I didn't want to scare him. But he is quick and scopey – the more I push, the harder he tries," she added.

Georgia Taylor-Jones clinched the HOYS Squibb Group Foxhunter with Mac Spirit. The Swiss-bred 10-year-old, by pony European individual gold medallist Machno Carwyn, was originally sent to Georgia to sell.

"We liked him so much, we kept him. He has a big jump and a lovely personality," said Georgia, who also has Kingstown Rebel through to the newcomers and Foxhunter finals.

Second and third were Jodie Giles with her own Whos Bits N Pieces and Allana Clutterbuck with Sue Evans' Sultan Du Bary, also a pony showjumper of the year finalist.

Ten-year-old Rachel Proudley headed her second HOYS 128cm of the season with Painted Lady IV.

"She loves being in the ring and bucks a lot. All she wants to do is jump, but I have to get my strides right and hold her up so she doesn't jump too flat," said Rachel.

Little Boy De Carmen, who finished third in the HOYS pony newcomers in 2013 with Jared Lunn, makes a return bid for the title after winning the newcomers second round with Jared's sister Hallie, who took over the ride 18 months ago.

Lottie Tutt joins them with Irish-bred eight-year-old Jim Bob II.

Ireland's Jason Foley, 14, commandingly claimed the HOYS 138cm top two on Bear Me In Mind (Bear) and Kiltormer Hero. Bear – a previous ride of Christie Pritchard – joined Jason two years ago.

"He's trustworthy and has plenty of scope," said Carlow-based Jason, who was on the winning 138cm team with the 10-year-old "Hero".

The team competitions were an Irish whitewash – they claimed all three sections. **H&H**

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'She takes some keeping up with': sprightly 18-year-old Twyford Elenora and handler Sam Watson take the overall supreme championship

## Elegant Elenora stands supreme

**Ponies (UK) Summer Supreme Championships, Bucks**

24–26 July

By Margaret Shaw

**A**FTER claiming the supreme in-hand mountain and moorland (M&M) title on the first night, Jean Smith's section C mare Twyford Elenora returned two days later to claim the Hindley Cup as supreme champion of show.

Twyford Elenora was the only in-hand entry in the supreme championship at a show plagued by decreasing entries – they welcomed 800 this time, compared to 2,500 last year

(see news). However, the jovial 18-year-old skipped along for handler Sam Watson.

Jean had previously bought one of Elenora's colt foals from the late Alison Mountain at the Twyford Stud, later selling him to the Czech Republic. Following Alison's death in 2013, Jean returned to the stud to buy his dam before the estate was dispersed.

"The aim was to show Elenora in-hand and she has been very successful at the few shows she has done, but now I think it's time to put her in foal," said Jean, who breeds Welsh section C and D ponies at the Jebeth Stud in Surrey.

"Elenora takes some keeping

up with and, even after the 2014 championships at Windsor and Chertsey, this is one of our best results," added Sam.

Another big in-hand winner was Lynda Calcutt's Shilstone Rocks North Westerly, who was expertly run out by his producer, Oliver Burchell-Small.

Linda bought the eight-year-old Dartmoor stallion from the Shilstone Rocks Stud and he has been a regular ridden finalist at the Royal International Horse Show (RIHS) and Horse of the Year Show (HOYS).

This year he ticked off yet another box when qualifying for the HOYS Cuddy supreme in-hand championship at South of England.

"He's a real multitasker as he combines stud duties with in-hand and ridden classes [with *H&H* blogger Chloe Chubb]," said Oliver.

The son of Shilstone Rocks North Countryman received the *Horse & Hound* Cup

as Glyn Greenwood M&M small breeds in-hand champion here, and he later stood reserve supreme in the Patrons Cup. Taking the Patrons Cup

"We trim his mane and tail every two weeks but it just keeps on growing"

Lacey Smith  
on traditional Domino Bad Boy





Edited by  
**Aimi Clark**

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Madeline Plumb and her Christmas present of two years ago, Thistledown Land Of The Free, stand ridden M&M supreme champions

Domino Flashy Lad (Jacob) took the supreme non-native and Commanchee coloured titles.

First out was Tommy with Andrew Smith, who fairly sprinted along to show off the six-year-old's paces.

This traditional coloured, who is a graded stallion with all three coloured societies (Coloured Horse and Pony Society, British Skewbald and Piebald Association and The Gypsy Cob Association), was bought as a foal

and, after a successful in-hand career, he is just starting out under saddle.

Tommy boasts one of the longest manes and tails on the circuit.

"We trim it every two weeks but it just keeps growing. To comply with society rules it has to be left natural. We plait it out of the way when he is turned out, but it still gets caked in mud," said Andrew's daughter Lacey, who claimed the Commanchee

ridden title with Jacob.

This sprightly 17-year-old was also bought as a foal.

"He was my second pony and I backed and brought him on myself. He's been versatile and successful at every level," said Lacey, whose champion has qualified for the Royal International for the past 13 years, has made two veteran appearances at Olympia and has contested senior dressage finals.

Two members of the Darlington

national champion of champions title was Emma Holder with her riding horse and intermediate champion Rhythm And Blues.

Emma received her six-year-old Irish draught/thoroughbred as a Christmas present from her brother Jack three years ago.

"We had him in the yard for schooling and he never left us," said Emma. "He's a dream horse to ride; we compete in dressage and he jumps for fun at home."

With marks ranging from 10 to 28, Rhythm And Blues was a clear winner after Emma showed off her champion to best advantage at every pace to impress judge Davina Whiteman.

"For me, animals have to have more than star quality," said Davina. "First and foremost they must have athleticism and be well built with good conformation, so that they can go correctly and perform well when they are ridden properly."

### Double for Dominos

THE Smith Family celebrated a championship double when Domino Bad Boy (Tommy) and



Tynwydd Good Friday wins his working hunter class with Georgia Darlington, before taking the championship with her mother, Sam





## AGAINST THE ODDS

### 'She broke a leg and lost an eye'

AFTER a taxing year, rider Kelly Pace sported the broadest smile of all when Caroline Anthony's Wollyday claimed the non-native supreme title. The pair had previously taken the riding horse title before standing first reserve in the Hazelden supreme.

Shortly after Caroline bought her mare 18 months ago, the 12-year-old coloured horse was kicked on her near fore, causing a clean break that needed splinting.

After six months' box rest, Wolly returned to work fully sound, but more bad news followed when the mare contracted cataracts and lost an eye last October.

"She has taken everything in her stride, and this year we have stepped up to open classes and qualified for the SEIB Search for a Star final at Horse of the Year Show," said Kelly. "Wolly is a great all-round horse as she carries a side-saddle, does dressage and, as she has a bold jump, we intend to try eventing next season."



family shared the spotlight in the £500-to-the-winner working hunter grand prix final when Tynwydd Good Friday and Conan Spartacus stood champion and reserve.

While Georgia Darlington rode both ponies to win their classes, her mother, Sam, took the championship ride on Good Friday to take the title.

The super Tynwydd Cardi 12-year-old has been a Hickstead finalist for Georgia over the past four seasons.

"She also loves showjumping, cross-country and hunting with the Surrey Union," said Georgia.

Thistledown Land Of The Free (Rupert), a surprise present for Madeline Plumb two Christmases ago, triumphed in the amateur riders M&M and supreme M&M ridden championships.

Madeline had been sent out to feed the other ponies on Christmas Day to find the Delvers Tarragon eight-year-old in the stable. Madeline's mother, Amanda, had first seen him sold at Fayre Oaks sales a few years previously and followed his progress.

"Rupert went through a few homes before I managed to get first refusal on him," said Amanda.

"He enjoys jumping, so we may try workers," added Madeline.

### New partnership wins again

ONE of the most coveted Ponies Association (UK) titles, the Brineton show pony championship, went to the new partnership of Phoebe Price and Litton Enterprise (Edward).

Producer Julie Templeton sourced Edward for Phoebe and in their first season they quickly forged a winning partnership at the winter championships, taking the Domino part-bred and Brineton titles before standing reserve supreme of show.

Although Phoebe lives in Bury St Edmunds, the 13-year-old regularly travels to Julie's Shropshire yard for lessons with Edward and her other ride, the 14hh show hunter pony Greylands Stardust.

"We've had a fabulous year thanks to Julie," said Phoebe.

Julie also chose this show to give Billy Moran's Tiger Trap (Nancy) a first outing.

Having been brought in top in her hunter class with Caitlin Galbraith, the super lightweight mare ultimately finished fourth after running out of petrol for ride judge Terry Chalmers.

"She is a super type with a bright future," said Terry.

The four-year-old mare by Chase The Ace is the first filly out of the prolific mare Tiger Lily IV, who has foaled some outstanding youngsters. Billy sent her to Julie to get her out and about before she returns to the paddocks to continue the breeding line.

Nancy's 2014 in-hand highlights include wins at Bramham, Great Yorkshire and the National Hunter Show.

"We cracked on with her in March and this is her first competitive start," said Julie.

"We always intended this to be a learning year and her next day out will be a fun ride."

With two days of torrential rain, zero entries in some classes and only a handful in others, this was far from the more buoyant championships. However, organisers remain positive and hope to turn things around with the help of feedback from members. **H&H**



Oliver Burchell-Small receives the *Horse & Hound* Cup as Shilstone Rocks North Westerly stands in-hand small breeds champion



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Hard work pays off: Sue Rose's 'challenging' H Naharra 'owns the ring' with Harriet Podd to stand ridden supreme of show – and secures a coveted HOYS ticket



## Reformed character dominates

### Arab Horse Society National Championship Show, Malvern

23–25 July

By Louise Calverley

**H**ARRIET PODD made the long journey from Kent to Worcestershire worthwhile with a plethora of wins aboard Sue Rose's H Naharra. The grey mare stood ridden supreme of show, having topped the open ridden championship and ridden Arabian star series (RASS) mares class.

Harriet, who recently set up her own business, HP Equestrian, also secured the pair's Horse of the Year Show (HOYS) ticket in the

ridden mares four years and over class.

"I've only had the ride on her this season, and she's not the easiest as she's very sensitive," said Harriet. "I've spent a lot of time training her to get used to other horses, music and that kind of thing, so I still can't believe it all."

Judge Tina Bennett said her winner was a clear choice.

"She is a lovely, beautiful mare who gave me a super ride. She really owns the ring and has a super presence. She stood out for me so I'm glad the other two judges agreed and she took the supreme."

The 11-year-old H Naharra has proved a challenge, with owner

Sue Rose even ending up in hospital after a failed attempt to desensitise the horse (see box).

"H Naharra has surpassed all my expectations. I love a challenge. I think that's why I like Arabs – it's so rewarding," added Sue.

Katy Cotgrove's Vartanii stood reserve supreme and reserve open ridden champion, and also picked up a HOYS ticket in the senior geldings class. The son of Sisyrinchium is 77% Crabbet and was ridden here by Katy's trainer, Darren Crowe.

"We have both done some riding this season, but I wanted Darren to ride him at Malvern," said Katy, who had taken two weeks' leave from her job as an

insurance risk manager in London to attend the nationals before heading to the Royal International Horse Show.

Roger and Liz Titterington's Naomi Shadow took the novice ridden championship with Liz Needham.

"Now that's how an Arab should ride," said judge Lynne Lidbury after picking the five-year-old as her winner in the novice mares class.

The Titteringtons did the double in this championship, with David Froggatt riding their chestnut EA Eldorado into the reserve spot.

"He's a tall horse at 15.3hh, so it's taken time for him to pull



## AGAINST THE ODDS

### 'I was unconscious in hospital'

MANY wouldn't have persevered with the feisty H Naharra (left), but owner Sue Rose was convinced her efforts would be worth it in the end.

"I bought H Naharra as a three-year-old and she was hypersensitive. Everything we've done with her has been difficult, from backing to getting her to let the farrier do her feet," explained Sue.

"When H Naharra began her showing career she wouldn't let judges get on and we have been

asked to leave the ring several times. When she was first placed in a class she bit the judge."

In an attempt to desensitise the grey, Sue took her to a Le Trec competition with a friend.

"It was a disaster and I ended up unconscious in hospital," said Sue, who discovered the mare had severe stomach ulcers. Once resolved, H Naharra's attitude transformed.

"She started to improve but I never thought we'd get a HOYS ticket. Harriet is a talented rider and has taken on board all the advice I've given her," added Sue.



Left: Emily Constable and her husband Simon's MG Vaquero heads the ridden Arabian star series (RASS)

champion, having previously been British national champion yearling here.

"It was only his second show of the year so I didn't expect to win," beamed Kelly, who plans to bring the son of Psy Dream out under saddle next season.

In a fitting tribute to her dam, Broadstone Dresden, Frances Atkinson's D'Aamsen stood supreme in-hand Anglo/part-bred. She was also part-bred female champion and finished reserve champion light horse to her son, D'Aamascus.

"We recently lost Broadstone Dresden, so it was very special for her daughter to do so well," said Frances. "The judge, Nigel Hollings, said if he could take one home, it would be D'Aamsen. He said she was a real quality mare to breed with."

Frances runs Cullinghurst Stud in Norfolk with husband Paul, and judges all over the world.

"We are very involved with breeding and like to show the performance side and versatility of part-bred Arabs," she added.

Ryan Jones, whose colt Falcons War Song won the Diamond Auction yearling colt class, generously donated his £5,000 prize money to a breast cancer charity.

The Diamond Auction programme was set up in 2012, and each year stallion owners are asked to donate a covering by their stallion free of charge. The coverings are auctioned to the highest bidders and the resultant offspring shown in these classes. **H&H**



Against the elements: despite falling over in torrential rain before stepping into the ring, 'good as gold' Arimathea claims the yearling male championship for Katie Gore

together. He was all legs," said Liz, whose horse suffered an accident in the ring as a four-year-old and had two years off to regain his confidence.

"Getting on was the problem as he was afraid of people crowding him," explained Liz.

"We've been doing this for 45 years now and this is always the show we love to win at."

### 'He used to self-harm'

THE popular RASS classes were well supported, Emily Constable (MG Vaquero) heading the seniors and Laura Rowe (Kavanaghs Imperial Assal) topping the junior stallions/geldings.

"MG Vaquero came to me to be produced but I fell in love with him, so my husband, Simon, bought him. He was a stallion when we got him but he used to self-harm, so we had him gelded," said Emily.

"We also found out he had ulcers, and sorting those out has been the making of him. He was virtually unrideable before."

In torrential rain on the Friday, Arimathea stood British national champion in the yearling male championship for Katie Gore. By Makisa Adaggio out of Misteeqa, the colt's win was the culmination of a successful season.

"The rain was horrendous and he fell over just before we trotted into the ring. But he was good as gold – it's the biggest show he's been to," explained Katie, whose unnamed exhibit was crowned champion foal, handled by Rod Jones.

Katie's home-bred filly, Delilah By Design, stood silver champion to the Podys' Vvivacious in the junior female championship.

Another home-bred, Celina

Singh's grey stallion TLC Enejino, headed the senior male championship class, shown by Mark Hardcastle.

Kelly Bewley's AA Dazzling Dream stood senior gelding



'That's how an Arab should ride': Naomi Shadow stands ridden novice champion



Kimberley Minchin and Saatchi cement their partnership by collecting the hack title and a HOYS ticket on their debut outing together

# Saatchi shines through the rain

## Mid-Herts Country Show, Keysoe

26 July

By Tricia Johnson

**A**N acquaintanceship of less than three weeks proved no barrier to Kimberley Minchin and her new purchase, Saatchi. The combination made a triumphant show ring debut to land a large hack win, Horse of the Year Show (HOYS) ticket and the section title.

Kimberley, 26, had never contested a hack class before, but conjured a confident, expressive show from her new partner despite the pouring rain that blighted the entire day.

"To say I'm thrilled is an understatement," said her mother, Lesley Farrell. "We've had a pretty horrible year as we lost the first foal out of our mare, Pretoria, at two weeks old and then I lost my job. I decided to buy a hack with my redundancy money, went to see Saatchi – without Kimberley – and fell for him immediately. I just hoped for a rosette today on their first time in the ring."

It was a day of firsts and another memorable one was posted by farrier Frazer Atherden, who came to the show

primarily to vie for an Olympia ticket with Gabi Berchielli's Dales pony Wolsey Xabi, but was prevented from doing so by classes clashing unexpectedly.

Then, his luck changed. He was asked by friend and fellow native campaigner Hayley Reynolds to lead her son Lewis, six, aboard the Welsh section A Mynyddtarren Hugo. Despite never having led a child on a lead-rein – let alone in a class – Frazer made his debut in style: the enchanting grey triumphed over a class of 30 and then stood mini-champion.

"I'm in shock," said in-hand and ridden specialist Frazer. "It was such a tough class that I really didn't think we stood a chance. I just wanted to do a good job for the family so I'm thrilled to play a small part in the young jockey's dream of gaining his first HOYS ticket."

Hayley, a full-time social worker based in Manchester who produces her ponies at home, had been waiting for this moment for some time.

"I usually lead him but we've been just missing out and we were always beaten by male leaders,"

she said. "I've been badgering Frazer for ages as I thought it would make a lovely picture, but this is the first time we've been at the same show."

A lightly shown first-season six-year-old also faced strong competition en route to a small intermediate class win and section title.

Nottingham-based producer Lucy Glover had Sharon

Harrison's home-bred Sarison Heavenly Silk totally on song, gliding along with wonderfully soft, uphill paces that charmed judges and onlookers alike.

The Kilvington Scoundrel six-year-old, who is out of the Harrison family's successful hack mare, Royal Silk, is Sharon's first home-bred HOYS finalist.

"Luckily, 'Lilly' doesn't mind the rain – it was like this at Area 4 where she won and was champion," said Lucy, who backed the mare last year.

"She was very late to mature but she's always been easy to ride; she seems to love the shows and took to it so well that we decided she was ready for open classes."

THE direct Olympia qualifiers were strong on quality if light in numbers – the championship featured past and current HOYS in-hand and ridden stars, as well as past Olympia finalists.

## Quality over quantity

THERE was no denying Katy Marriott-Payne and the 2014 HOYS-winning Welsh section B stallion Cadlanvalley Buzby, who shrugged off the downpour to give an enthusiastic but mannerly performance on his first appearance in an Olympia section.

"He was a serious contender for the ticket right from the start," said judge Stuart Hollings. "He went like a true Welsh pony should and was push-button going through all the gears."

This lovely palomino is a three-quarter brother to six-times HOYS and five-time Olympia-qualified Cadlanvalley Sandpiper – out of the same mare, Stockham Domino, but by Russetwood Elation, a son of Sandpiper's sire, Eyarth Troy.

The six-year-old Buzby is still owned by breeders Yvonne and Howell Davies and their daughter Hayley Grota, and combines showing with stud duties.

"He is their pride and joy and would still be in the field with their mares if Hayley hadn't convinced

I'm thrilled to play a small part in a young jockey's dream of going to HOYS'

Frazer Atherden

on leading Lewis Reynolds, 6, to win the mini championship





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MID-HERTS

## FIRST WIN

...of a supreme title

MEGAN THOMPSON, 12, was rewarded for a long wait when her attractive 133cm show hunter pony, Hindleap Oliver Twist, claimed the area supreme pony title, beating eight other combinations.

The family began showing the seven-year-old last season, but have so far just missed out – twice by only one mark – on HOYS qualification.

"We are still hoping to get there," said Megan's mother, Rachel Cowan, who produces the pony at home in Buckingham. "We figured today that we were already soaked through and couldn't get any wetter, so we might as well stay for the supreme; it's success at the fourth attempt for us."

her dad to let me have him under saddle last year," said Katy.

"This year he qualified for Royal International (RIHS) before returning to stud; he came back to me at the end of May, was reserve supreme at NPS Area 20 and also Royal Norfolk, where he qualified for HOYS."

After a marathon coloured section, Denise Kersley's traditional pony, Tiger Tim, nailed his class and the championship, beautifully ridden by Alys Matravers.

This Wincanton-based combination, worker champions

at the Coloured Horse and Pony Society (CHAPS) championships last year, are equally at home in the British Dressage arena, where they are now training at medium level.

It was mission accomplished for Alys, who was fifth at HOYS last year with the 10-year-old.

"We haven't done this show before but came because there were only two more qualifiers that we could have done with him," she said. "They were strong classes with some serious horses, so to get the championship as well is amazing." **H&H**



The multitasking Tiger Tim claims the coloured championship with Alys Matravers



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# Benjamin wins birthday ticket



A curious case: 'beautiful ride' Benjamin Button stands hunter champion to gift Martin Surtees a HOYS ticket on his birthday

## Ryedale Show, North Yorks

28 July

By Stuart Hollings

**M**ARTIN SURTEES had an extra reason to celebrate on his birthday when collecting a Horse of the Year Show (HOYS) ticket and the hunter championship, riding his latest acquisition Benjamin Button on their debut major outing.

Martin bought the nine-year-old heavyweight from Jill Day two months ago.

"This is the third horse we have had from Jill – including Ballard Bouncer and Over the Rainbow – and I have to give credit to Robert Walker for making them such beautiful rides. Benjamin Button's sire, Free Spirit, is by Jumbo, so I may attempt some worker classes with him," he said.

Reserve was the second-season partnership of 18-year-old A level student Zoe Hume and the

evergreen State Policy – winner of the two-strong HOYS small hunter class.

"They are competing in four classes at the Royal International Horse Show (RIHS; report, p40) this week, so we nearly didn't come to the show in this awful weather. But as we live only 10 minutes away, it turned out to be a rewarding last-minute decision," said Zoe's mother, Heather. "They were sixth in the intermediates at HOYS last year and this will be their first visit there in adult company."

Only three working hunters were called forward to phase two. Michael Cooper produced the sole clear to take the top spot on the Great Yorkshire winner Thor, followed in line by Adele Hanson on her Midland Counties victor Bushmills, who had a pole down.

The HOYS ticket subsequently fell to Birmingham debutantes Anna Dawson and the Coward family's Triple Diamond, bred by

Hazel Bramley and sired by the late Coolcorron Cool Diamond.

"The course seemed long and twisty – like many others I had the first fence down, which kicks you in the teeth and sends out alarm bells at the same time. I realise I must be one of the luckiest riders at the show," said Anna.

The Moran team withstood the challenge made by Karen Hill's

stock when their mare Arlington Park, accompanied by her unnamed and unbeaten champion foal by 2014/15 Cuddy finalist Tiger Attack, captured supreme honours in a competitive hunter breeding section.

"She is an outstanding mare, full of quality and so athletic on the move – and look what she is producing," enthused judge Amanda Atkinson.

Karen Hill's Dutch Gold broodmare Hillocks Golden Sunrise stood reserve to Arlington Park, as did her youngstock champion Morning Call – the Up With The Lark two-year-old filly out of Sunrise – in the overall supreme.

Billy and Joanne Moran also took the pony breeding title with their dual Royal Welsh champion Love Affair, shown by James Croxford. The yearling filly, by Willowcroft Regal Bronze out of Smart Thinking, who died last Christmas, is a full sister to Allister Hood's HOYS-bound small hack Step This Way.

## Hitchhiker goes one better

JANE HALLYMAN'S home-bred three-year-old hunter winner Mannin Bay, by Primitive Star, later improved on his 2014 reserve placing in the Irish draught section to land the championship this time, led by Tony Smith.

"Our horsebox is off the road so this has been our only seasonal outing. I am grateful to our friend Neil McDermid for giving us a lift to the show," explained Jane.

There were no signs of a decline in numbers in the mountain and moorland (M&M) sections. Overall in-hand honours went to Hazel Illingworth's 12-year-old Welsh section D Coednewydd Ivahoe, shown by Henry "Blondie" Price.

"He is a late starter, having done



Birmingham calling: Triple Diamond and Anna Dawson secure their HOYS debut

Pictures by Steve Dawe





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RYEDALE



'Remarkable': Ridden champions Thistledown Vanilla Orchid and Ellie Cooper-Balaam

nothing when I bought him out of a field three years ago. We have been concentrating on worker classes this time, so to return to the in-hand and win in this company was marvellous," exclaimed Hazel.

Reserve supreme was judge Stephen Howard's small breeds champion – Sue Hide's home-bred seven-year-old Huttons Ambo Country Boy, the Dartmoor Pony Society's 2014 gelding of the year by Huttons Ambo Alpha, who was a former champion here.

'My champion was very fit and moved well with all four feet, and never missed a beat,' said supreme and large breeds judge Cheryl Frith.

With no separate mini M&M ridden championship, Ellie Cooper-Balaam, eight, and her five-year-old first-ridden winner Thistledown Vanilla Orchid had no choice but to compete against much older riders in the overall ridden championship – which they duly won.

"Their victory was even more remarkable given that this is their first season off the lead," said Ellie's mother, Maxine. **H&H**

## IN THE GENES

### Growing up together

TEN-year-old Millie Bullock and the winning home-bred first ridden Little Red Dragon were born within weeks of each other and have grown up together. The pair have been competing affiliated for just over a year – but were RIHS-bound on their next outing.

The pony was named after the first ridden Allostock Red Dragon who Millie's father, Tristan, rode to victory at the British Show Pony Society (BSPS) championships. He had further success with Rosslyn Artistic Elf, Rosevean Grey Owl and Hot Gossip. Millie's mother, Jemma Hoey, showed Twylands Humming Bee, RIHS winner Walsoken Little Grebe and Caldwells Artful Dodger.

Millie and Little Red Dragon finished mini reserve champion to the lead-rein Brookwater Toy Boy, ridden by Lauren Tate, whose mother Jenna and grandmother Evelyn are BSPS-starred judges.

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Hanmer Wizard claims the overall New Forest in-hand title – a first for his breeders Farriers Stud

# Wizard has magic touch

## New Forest and Hampshire County Show, Hants

28–30 July

By Tricia Johnson

**A** multit talented stallion improved on his 2013 reserve result to give a popular stud its first overall New Forest in-hand title.

The very best stud and Forest-bred animals were out in force but there was no denying the Youngs' handsome home-bred bay, Hanmer Wizard, whose sire, the former Olympia victor Farriers Finger Print, is a past ridden champion here.

This was the third outing of the season for Will Chatley and the mannerly 10-year-old, who qualified for Horse of the Year Show (HOYS) under saddle at Three Counties and stood in-hand breed champion and reserve supreme at the New Forest Pony Enthusiasts show.

"Wizard's been busy with stud work this season – he's a great mix of stud and old Forest bloodlines – so we've not been able to show him much," said Shirley Young, who runs the Forest-based Farriers Stud with her husband, Simon. "Wizard has the most wonderful temperament – he shares a haynet with his

entire full-brother on the lorry, hacks out in the forest, does quadrilles with mares and his sire, plus he enjoys his hunting."

Daniel Drodge claimed reserve with his stunning youngstock champion, Pilleybailey Fascination.

Although the Drodge family has bred Foresters for several generations – and the filly has notched up several notable breed show successes – this win was the realisation of a major dream for Daniel, 21.

"I've always wanted to win a trophy here," he said. "This one is even more special because it's presented by the Baileys, who

introduced me to showing, and is named after their stallion, Applewitch Pure Magic, who is Fascination's sire."

For the seventh time, the Forest-bred title went to Robert Maton's incredible mare, Mallards Wood Goddess, whose Knavesash Knight colt took the overall foal trophy – the ninth of her 10 foals to do so.

## Highlander stands supreme

THE overall native title went outside the local breed, however. Rhi Randall's Highland Bluebraes Merrick headed the mixed breeds section in 2013, but this year went one better to stand supreme.

Pictures by David Miller





Highland four-year-old Bluebraes Merrick stands native supreme for Rhi Randall, increasing his tally of overall titles this year

Rhi has owned the lovely grey for three of his four years, and this season has also brought supremes at Kent County – where he was reserve in the Cuddy qualifier – and The Showing Register.

"My plan is to bring him out as a ridden novice next year," said Rhi.

A first-season ridden campaigner produced a flowing, expressive performance to nail the New Forest ridden championship.

Despite his lack of mileage, Fiona King's home-bred stallion, Green Cottage Fijal Jupiter, was right on song throughout for Essex-based producer Jodie Howie-Farran.

The 11-year-old competed in-hand as a youngster – standing supreme at the New Forest Breed Show in 2008 – and travelled to Jodie's yard last October to begin his ridden career.

"He's a beautiful stamp with tons of bone and great movement," said Jodie, who learned to ride at Fiona's establishment as a child. "It was love at first sight when I saw Jupiter, but I thought he would be a two-year project."

Results have rolled in already, though – including HOYS and Olympia semi-final tickets, and both Picton and open qualification for the National Pony Society (NPS) championships.

"I am so proud of him – he has come such a long way in such a short space of time," added a delighted Jodie.

Katy Marriott-Payne's New Forest luck held when Claire Wigley's Fell stallion Greenholme Warbler headed the HOYS ridden native section. The decision to stage HOYS – rather than Olympia – qualifiers paid off for the show as numbers were well up on recent years.

"He's a wonderful pony – an absolute pleasure to produce and ride – but we've had no fewer than five seconds this year," said Katy, who has previously qualified for Olympia here twice and now took her HOYS ticket.

For good measure, three of her other charges also booked places at Birmingham – the Welsh section A Cwmmeudwy Callonog, native first-ridden Shamrock Lake Magma Shakira as well as 128cm show pony Whiteleaze Secret Love.

### Tycoon in the big-time

A former racehorse sprang a major surprise in the well-filled ridden hunter section. This was the first hunter outing at a major county show for Helen Newbold's striking lightweight, Tycoons Reflection, who has also qualified for the HOYS Racehorse to Riding Horse (RoR) final this term – a class his half-brother, Deep Reflection, won in 2013.

"I just thought a place would

### FIRST WIN...

...of a HOYS ticket

THE Kendal-based family made a triumphant New Forest debut to collect a first-ever HOYS ticket at the head of the show pony section, scoring with their home-produced 148cm victor, Rotherwood Peeping Star, beautifully ridden by 16-year-old Zoe Burton.

"We've been really close in HOYS classes this season and had qualified for the Royal International, so we thought if we were going to come all this way south, we might as well come here as well," said Janine Burton.

"It's been our ambition to compete at HOYS – and finally we can."

have been nice today," said Helen, who runs a 40-horse breaking, pre-training and schooling yard in Milton Keynes with husband Jason and shows as a hobby.

"I only entered this class for mileage and as a warm-up for the RoR, which we then missed because it clashed with the hunter championship."

"This is a quality thoroughbred with great movement, scope and a temperament to match," commented conformation judge Sue Webb. "He was a worthy winner and champion."

A cob who had worn a side-saddle just twice before – neither occasion being in the ring – broke the hunters' stranglehold to head the ladies' qualifier. The Ainsworths' consistent weight campaigner, Colebrooke, oozed assurance from every pore as he took his HOYS ticket, beautifully ridden by Emma Wilesmith.

His new role came about by accident.

"We were collecting baby items from Emma, who is a great friend, and I casually suggested she should stick her side-saddle on 'Lord' because cobs can now compete in the ladies," said Nicola Ainsworth, whose baby daughter is now six weeks old. "Lord took to it like a duck to water – we tried it once to make sure he didn't freak out and then had one more go last week; I really can't believe this."

In addition to showing – he was



'Like a duck to water': ladies champion Colebrooke wears a side-saddle for the third time





Tambrook Superstar stands show hunter pony champion for Philippa Horton, 16, and will join her dam, Rhosyr Elizabeth, at HOYS

## AGAINST THE ODDS

### 'Matilda had said goodbye'

WHEN Matilda Jackson-Clutton and lead-rein hunter-type Knivers Keepsake won to take their HOYS ticket, it was a poignant moment for the six-year-old's mother, Laura.

"Keepsake had an accident in the field last November," said Laura, who produces the eight-year-old at home. "The hardest thing was getting Matilda to say goodbye before we took her to Newmarket Equine Hospital; we genuinely believed Keepsake would not make it home."

"But the results were positive and she came home to recuperate, supported by Duncan Harrison at Priors Farm Equine Vets."

The pair qualified for Hickstead on their first outing at Baston and had two runner-up spots in HOYS classes prior to this win.

"Keepsake has also started Matilda off in first-ridden classes," added Laura. "The results this season are icing on the cake – the best result is that she is still part of our family."

fourth in the heavyweights here with Nicola's husband Matt – Lord hunts regularly through the winter, carrying Ledbury secretary Helen Smith.

Megan Cookson's bid to maintain a 100% intermediate championship record here with the in-form Louvaine Rooney almost didn't happen.

"We were stuck on the M40 for over three hours with a blowout," she said. "My brother back home in Cheshire got someone to come and fit us another tyre, as our insurance company wanted to take us back home."

But all was well in the end and the ultra-consistent pair duly took their third New Forest title.

Hack campaigner Amy Bosworth was another whose path was far from smooth.

"We set off from Lincoln for the Royal International after I finished work at 7.30pm and broke down after half an hour," she said. "We didn't get there until 3am yesterday morning and then had another early start to get here today. I did wonder if the week was going to be jinxed."

This proved not to be the case, as Amy was second in the smalls

riding Sharlen Royal Enclosure before winning the larges and standing champion with Meryl Payne's Memento.

### Like mother, like daughter

A 153cm show hunter pony will be joining her dam at HOYS after taking the qualifying ticket here.

Philippa Horton, aged 16, partnered the Quiney-produced 153cm SHP Tambrook Superstar to win, qualify and stand section champion.

Philippa's mother, Stephanie, bought the substantial seven-year-old unseen at the beginning of the season.

"I was looking for a 153cm and this one was recommended by two friends," said Stephanie. "One of them was the owner of his dam, Rhosyr Elizabeth, who is through in the 143cm class. I knew there were several people interested, so I didn't dare hang about – it's a decision I've not regretted."

Vicki Myronidis headed a battalion of coloured campaigners, scoring with the Durdins' wonderful cob Jimmy Two Shoes, who headed his class by 10 marks. **H&H**



Green Cottage Fijal Jupiter stands New Forest ridden champion for Jodie Howie-Farran





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## Albion Saddlemakers Badminton Young Dressage Horse of the Future, Glos

29 July

By Carole Mortimer

**A** record entry of previously qualified young horses contested the final of this year's young dressage horse of the future. But there is a lucrative first prize of £3,500 and a bespoke Albion saddle to be won in this established competition – now in its 27th year.

The 44 four- and five-year olds of all types and gender, judged by Erik Theilgaard and Nicky Barrett, included many combinations who have already come to prominence this season. It was, however, the five-year-old Lone Star II who came up trumps for Windsor-based Willow Kemp, who was beyond excited with her prize.

"This is my biggest prize ever – last year we won the best



Jenny Martell and the Apache-sired Giovanni B finish fourth in a 'good top five'

# 'A classy stamp of a horse'



Elegant combination Willow Kemp and her 'hot and electric' Lord Loxley five-year-old Lone Star II take the Badminton young dressage horse accolade

turned out," said Willow, who acquired Lone Star in Germany two years ago. The five-year-old by Lord Loxley is out of a Lauries Crusador mare – her thoroughbred dam-line reflected in her elegant type and outline.

"She is hot and quite electric to ride, but in a good way, and she so enjoys working. She has the best attitude. She also has plenty of ability to collect and we bought her for her grand prix potential," said Willow.

As she trains with Nicky Barrett, Nicky stepped down from the judging table, leaving Erik to

assess the combination alone.

Second place was awarded to Carl Hester's former apprentice Lucy Cartwright and San Marco – in contrast to the elegance of the winner, a workmanlike bay with powerful paces.

The pair should be getting used to collecting rosettes for owners FEI judge Isobel Wessels and her husband Justin, as this was the third accolade in just two weeks for the German-bred gelding, who is by the Stedinger son Status Quo, out of a Gribaldi mare; the combination won this year's Shearwater young horse

championship, swiftly followed by their novice regional final.

"He has gone way beyond our expectations for this year," said Isobel, a former winner here 20 years ago (1995) with her former international grand prix ride Leopardo.

"Both Lucy and I ride him but he is my next project, and while he looks quite imposing, luckily he is nothing like as big as [my grand prix horse] Chagall."

## 'I would happily have her'

KATIE BAILEY, also a former Carl Hester protégé, and her own Hillgrounds Wolkenhall gained third (see box) with two chestnuts, Giovanni B (Apache x Vivaldi) under Jenny Martell fourth and the licensed stallion Brandon (Bellissimo M x Donnerhall), last week's Hickstead young horse winner, under Darren Hicks, fifth.

"We had a good top five and the top two were very different types," said judge Erik Theilgaard. "The winner was more off the ground and the second more ground covering. Lone Star is a really classy stamp of a horse – she is elegant, light on her feet with good paces, and looks very adjustable and trainable – I would happily have her." **H&H**

## RESULTS

Albion Badminton YDH final (E Theilgaard, N Barrett). – 1, Lone Star II (W Kemp) 82.4; 2, San Marco (L Cartwright) 82.2; 3, Hillgrounds Wolkenhall (K Bailey) 79.6.

## IN THE GENES

### A bonus for British-bred 'Harry'

HILLGROUNDS WOLKENHALL and his rider Katie Bailey had the longest wait for the final result, having been first in the arena at 8.30am. The intervening seven hours proved to be a good day's work, however, as Wolkenhall finished third and received the prize for the best four-year-old – a bonus £150 on top of their prize of £1,300.

Wolkenhall was also the best British-bred, although the prize for this was simply the satisfaction of a job well done for his breeder Clare Skinner, from Devon – and his rider, who produced him.

Wolkenhall is one of the first crop for his sire, the now-gelded British-based Hanoverian, Wolkenderry (Wolkentanz I x Londonderry). He is out of Clare's Dutch-bred mare Akilah (Sandreo x Ferro) who was bought as a foal from The Netherlands for breeding. This year she gave birth to Wolkenhall's full brother.

Wolkenhall received a higher first premium at the BEF Futurity as a foal and was then bought by Katie, who kept him with Clare until he was three.

"'Harry' has always made a nice balanced picture and



throughout his growing years has been a good-looking youngster, and we have another from Clare – a yearling by Franklyn Sugar," said Katie, who is based near Newent where she runs her own yard and freelance business.



Class, stamina and determination: Big Orange fights back when Jamie Spencer asks, to win the Sussex Stakes by a neck from late challengers Quest For More and Trip To Paris



## Orange pips rivals

### Qatar Goodwood Festival, West Sussex

28 July–1 August

By Marcus Armytage

**D**ESPITE the rise in value of the Qatar Sussex Stakes to £1m, it was the Goodwood Cup, won by Big Orange, which provided the most thrilling finish to any race at this year's Qatar Goodwood Festival.

Mike Bell's tall gelding, ridden by Jamie Spencer, was second for most of the way before making the best of his way home three out. With a furlong to run, it appeared he would be swamped as Trip To Paris came up one side and the Northumberland Plate winner Quest For More up the other.

But Big Orange's class and stamina was matched by a steely determination. In the Princess of

Wales's Stakes at Newmarket he was passed but fought back and here, if Trip To Paris did not get his head in front, he certainly drew level looking dangerously like he would win.

But Ed Dunlop's gelding was wide of Big Orange and Quest For More and, on his own and without a rail, he wandered a bit, which probably cost him the race. Big Orange, engaged in hand-to-hand combat, battled it out with Quest For More and eventually stuck out his head to win by a neck with Trip To Paris a nod away in a very game third.

The winner and third could meet again – half a world away. Both have the Melbourne Cup in November as their target.

"He stays two miles, he's a tough hardy horse, and he's not ground dependent. He's perfect for the 'race that stops the

nation,'" said Bell. "I can't wait. I've never had a runner out there before.

"It's a good job he's 17hh because he stuck his long neck out. It was a thrilling race to be involved with and a thrilling spectacle," he added. "Trip To Paris had a 4lb penalty so comes out of it with even more credit than us. Big Orange wasn't in form at the start of the season but my horses are in form now and we've put cheekpieces on him. If I knew what makes the difference – I'd have a strike rate like Mark Johnston!"

Winning jockey Jamie Spencer added: "There was a doubt about him staying. He's out of a Fasliyev mare who was all speed but the Duke of Marmalade's [his sire] seem to be doing well. He has kept improving – he is just a big oaf and he will only get stronger."

Ed Dunlop was delighted with his Royal Ascot Gold Cup winner Trip To Paris, who lost nothing in defeat. "I've been whingeing for ages about the 4lb penalty but he got that for a reason," he said. "That and the course probably beat him today. He can only improve. Melbourne might come a year too early but we'll see."

### Solow's too fast

THE Qatar Sussex Stakes lost some of its appeal when Gleneagles was taken out at the 48-hour stage because of the ground, which left Solow a very short-priced favourite. The French horse was going into the race on a four-timer in Group Ones and with very legitimate claims to be the best miler in the world.

But Arod, Peter Chapple-Hyam's four-year-old, who finished a good fourth in last





Edited by

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French class: short favourite Solow proves too good under Maxim Guyon, seeing off the progressive front-runner Arod to take the Sussex Stakes by half a length

year's Derby but has progressed well back over a mile this season, stepped up to the plate magnificently to provide some serious opposition for Solow – the first Wertheimer runner at Goodwood since Epinard won the Stewards' Cup in 1923.

The long striding Arod made the running, as he had done successfully in the Diomed Stakes and Summer Mile. But Maxim Guyon – in his first season as retained jockey to the Wertheimers – rode a judicious race on Solow and never gave the leader more than a length's advantage. He was poised when Andrea Atzeni kicked on Arod.

Very often you will find nothing folds quicker than a front-runner headed but no one told Arod that and he put up an admirable fight, at one stage looking like he might rally back past his French adversary. However Solow, who has probably figured out he only has to do enough to win now, proved too good and went on to win by a cosy half-length.

"My father [Alec] won this race with Venture in 1960," said Freddy Head. "I was only a boy then but there are a lot of memories. It's special winning with such a good horse but a bit more tense."

Explaining why Solow has only just come into his own as a five-year-old, giving his first indication of what this summer had in store when romping home on World Cup night in Dubai, he added:

"He had problems as a three-year-old, which is why we gelded him. He's bred to be a stayer by Singspiel out of a mare who got two miles, which is why I persisted running him over long distances."

"Each time he ran, he ran badly but he worked so well at home. So we tried him over a shorter trip last August. Since then he has won four Group Ones, a Group Two and a Group Three."

Solow's winning margin has decreased with each run this season but Head reckons the grey, who he hopes will be around for a few years yet, is older and wiser.

"With age he is getting to know this business," he said.

Coolmore did not go home empty-handed winning the Gordon Stakes with Highland Reel and the Group One Qatar Nassau Stakes with the David Wachman-trained Legatissimo, who appeared to have an extra gear compared with her rivals beating Wedding Vow.

It was the 1,000 Guineas winner's sixth start of the season and although touched off in both the Oaks and Pretty Polly she clearly thrives on racing.

"She exploded away from them today," said Wachman. "She doesn't like hanging about before a race but she's a good filly and eight, nine or 10 furlongs are fine for her. Good ground is the key and I'll speak to the owners about where she goes next. Their three brains are bigger than mine."

## FRANKIE DETTORI AND MAGICAL MEMORY

FRANKIE was on fire – he was top jockey with six winners, plus he was driven in a Porsche at 274kph around the Goodwood circuit by his boss Sheikh Joaan. His victory on the Charlie Hills-trained Magical Memory in the Qatar Stewards' Cup nearly overshadowed the retirement of Richard Hughes.

The sprinter is owned by Kennet Valley Thoroughbreds, a syndicate run by Sam Hoskins, who revealed: "We have Ryan Moore's feedback to thank for that. He rode him to finish sixth in a nursery here last year and told us to put him away and geld him."

## ONE TO WATCH

### Tashaar

THE colt won the Betfred Mobile Handicap over 11 furlongs doing handstands. The Sea The Stars three-year-old is now unbeaten in two starts but it is still a big ask for one so inexperienced to win a 14-runner Goodwood handicap second time out.

"He has been fine since he won at Haydock in May but there was no point in suddenly rushing him," said trainer Richard Hannon. "We bought him off Mick Kinane and he has always been a lovely horse, but is a work in progress. We've given him the time and are now being rewarded for it. The owners [Al Shaqab Racing] sponsor the meeting and I wanted to show them how good he was."







'He did it the hard way': James Doyle fights off late attempts with front-runner Toormore to stand victorious in the Lennox Stakes for the week's leading trainer Hannon



## FINAL RIDE FOR HUGHES

THE reigning champion jockey Richard Hughes chose the last day of his favourite meeting to retire, although the hard work really begins now as he is becoming a trainer at Danebury in Hampshire.

He rode two winners at this meeting but none on his final day. His colleagues showered him in champagne following his last ride and he enjoyed an AP McCoy-style send-off from the crowd. The stewards' leaving present to him was a two-day ban which, should he decide to return, he will have to serve from a week today.

As one big name leaves the scene (temporarily at any rate) another who is going places very quickly, trainer David O'Meara, broke his duck at the track when So Beloved, a strapping great gelding, won the Betfred Mile.

## Toormore's win overdue

RICHARD HANNON was leading trainer for the week for the first time and struck with Toormore, the champion two-year-old of 2013, who won the Qatar Lennox Stakes, a race now worth £300,000, which is as much as the Sussex Stakes a year ago.

The Godolphin-owned colt, who will race on as a five-year-old next year, had not won since last year's Craven Stakes. However, he had been knocking on the door, in all but one of his seven subsequent starts – most of which have been against the best milers around.

Here though, over seven furlongs, James Doyle took the race by the scruff of the neck by making all. Just when it looked like Toormore would be swamped by Dutch Connection, Code Red and Ascription at the furlong pole, he pulled out more and went away by three quarters of a length for an overdue success.

"He did it the hard way from the front and they came at him one by one," said Hannon. "He could easily have said he'd done his bit and chucked it in at that stage. He needed that to get his confidence back before we could go back up to the next level [Group One]."

Sheikh Joaan, the driving force

behind Qatar's £2m sponsorship of Goodwood and Al Shaqab racing, had a fantastic week with six winners. Shalaa, a speedy Invincible Spirit colt looks like he will take a bit of pegging back this season over six furlongs, judging by the way he won the Qatar Richmond Stakes.

Carrying a 3lb penalty he won by two and three quarter lengths, quickening away from Tasleet with a shake of the reins.

"I don't see him as a miler," said John Gosden, who will aim him for the Morny, Middle Park and, next year, the Commonwealth Cup. "He flops around at home but get him down to the start and he's very professional."

A better guide to future success, however, is the Qatar Vintage Stakes, which has been won by horses like Dr Devious, Maroof, Sir Percy, Shamardal, Olympic Glory and Toormore in the past.

This time it went to Galileo Gold, a typically fizzy son of Paco Boy (out of a Galileo mare) but with plenty of scope to follow in the footsteps of some of the race's illustrious winners.

He was originally bought by Amanda Skiffington for 33,000gns before being sold on



## COMMENT

Richard Hughes



## ‘Winning was the bonus that came with the job’

I have always wanted to retire at the top and I couldn't think of a better place to sign off than at Goodwood — it's a special racecourse to me. I've been lucky there in the past and I like it because you don't always need to be on the best horse to win, due to the nature of the track and the way it rides.

I was pleased to score a win on the opening day on Gibeon. To get another on the Friday with Belvoir Bay was a bonus, especially as both horses are trained by my brother-in-law, Richard Hannon Jr.

Even though I didn't ride a winner on the final Saturday it was still a great day.

Training is in my blood, having grown up watching my father [the late Dessie Hughes] train. Even when I started out as a jockey it was always going to be my next venture after riding — I never thought of anything else. I know communication as a trainer is important and something I will have to think about more. As a jockey, communication only really comes into play three minutes before a race when you're talking to the trainer and owners.

However, I think my biggest challenge will be going out there and buying quality horses from the sale ring and trusting my instinct. Then, of course, finding owners to buy them.

I've been lucky to have always enjoyed my job as a jockey. Not just riding in a race and having winners but the riding-out part and the preparing of horses beforehand has always interested me. There is satisfaction in finding a nice two-year-old and watching it grow into a decent racehorse. For me riding winners was the bonus that came with the job.

There have been so many trainers — too many to list here — that I've enjoyed riding for over my 27-year career but Mick

Channon was vital in getting my career going. I was his first jockey when I initially came over from Ireland. As a trainer, I will be looking to give good young apprentices the opportunities to start riding and finding them from scratch. Getting going is a challenge for any young jockey but they need to believe in themselves.

### 'I will probably put on a couple of stone'

I never moaned about my weight but it was always there in my subconscious — knowing when I woke up I'd be heavy, I'd even have dreams about it. I will probably put on a couple of stone and fill my frame out a bit. I'll still be riding out every day so that should keep me fit and make sure I don't get obese.

My first ride was in 1988 and the sport has changed a fair amount since. The lads in the weighing room are more professional these days. I remember a time when you'd go into the sauna at a racecourse and there would be empty champagne bottles and cider cans in there — we'd crack open a bottle of champagne after the third race. That just would not happen any more, not only because of the alcohol-testing that came into play, but jockeys are looking after themselves better than ever before. They are becoming more educated thanks to improved nutrition and fitness advice on offer.

The camaraderie in the weighing room is something I definitely will miss, there's nothing like it, but I will also miss being in demand. I'm lucky to have reached the top of what I do, but now that I will be training, I'll be down at the bottom of the ladder and working my way back up again. It will keep me on the ball for sure and I'm looking forward to the challenge. **H&H**

## THE MAGNOLIA CUP

THIS year's Magnolia Cup, the invitational ladies' race before racing on Thursday, was more chaotic than normal — which is quite an achievement. The 10 runners appeared to set off in three divisions, one of four, one of five and one of one — which missed both starts.

However the sting in the tail for the first lot down the track was that they had not officially been started so they were all disqualified. Camilla Henderson, daughter of trainer Nicky, won after a terrific duel with Dido Harding in the real thing. The fact that no one fell off this year is another victory of sorts.

to Sheikh Joaan. Skiffington also bought Toronado before he was sold on to the Qataris, which augurs well.

Galileo Gold is trained in Newmarket by Hugo Palmer, whose star continues to rise almost vertically. He was away on a very brief honeymoon so missed out on his first runner for Al Shaqab Racing.

Nothing delighted the sponsors

as much as Dubday's victory over the unlucky The Corsican in the Betfred Glorious Stakes.

Unbeaten and a champion in Qatar, where he is treated like Desert Orchid, he became the first Qatari-trained winner in Britain. Jassim Ghazali, his trainer, has a small satellite yard in Newmarket, which he plans to expand to 30 horses next year. **H&H**



Shalaa looks invincible after a two and three-quarter length win in the Richmond Stakes



Brighton, Storrington, Surrey and North Sussex Standard 14 takes the overall beagle championship title



## Standard stands out from the crowd



Christ Church and Farley Hill Valour 14 takes the doghound championship title – and judge Alastair Jackson says he has ‘rarely seen’ more hounds of such high quality

### Festival of Hunting, Peterborough, Cambs

22 July

By Lizzie Pinney

### Beagles

**W**ITH kennel cough not affecting numbers as much as the foxhound show taking place on the same day (see the Festival of Hunting report, 23 July), 16 packs of beagles competed at this year’s Peterborough Harrier and Beagle show.

The long morning’s judging culminated in the doghound championship being awarded to Christ Church and Farley Hill (CCFH) Valour 14, the winner of the entered doghound class. The veteran Old Berkeley Farrier 07 was awarded reserve.

Judges Alastair Jackson and Kevin Price MH (West Somerset) were impressed by the overall

number of exceptional hounds forward in the morning. Alastair, in his long and distinguished career as a Master of Foxhounds (MFH) and former director of the Hunting Office, will have judged more hound shows than most, but commented that he had rarely seen more hounds of such a very high standard.

Opening the show with a strong entry, the unentered class was won by Old Berkeley Mussel ahead of Eton College litter brothers Blarney and Blenheim. The judges were looking for hounds with substance and movement, and took a long time to distinguish the winners in this hotly contended class.

The couple’s classes were also extremely competitive: the single couple class was won by Eton College Wallace 12 and Spicer 14 ahead of the Per Ardua Factor and Famous 14.

It was good to see the Nottinghamshire-based Per Ardua – one of the smaller





Edited by  
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packs that show annually at Peterborough – in the ribbons. Their hunt staff were striking in air force blue socks, a vestige from their previous links to the RAF.

Quality abounded in the two couple class with several packs able to put forward two groups. Eton College took the title and third place with two exquisite entries, their use of the prolific stallion hound Brighton and Storrington Villain 02 proving his worth as sire of many of their hounds in the ribbons.

The Old Berkeley were second and the Derby, Notts and Staffs just out of the ribbons.

Judge Kevin Price said that he had expected the Old Berkeley to do well during the day but that the Derby, Notts and Staffs hounds showed huge improvement in many of the classes.

A disappointing stallion hound class was won by Viscount 12, another Eton hound and also sired by Brighton and Storrington Villain 02.

The veteran class was however full of quality with many hounds still looking good and moving well after several seasons hunting.

The Palmer Marlborough, Newcastle and District and Radley College were all in the running but Old Berkeley Farrier 07 outshone them.

## Bitches have 'wow' factor

JUDGE Rupert Gibson MH (Newcastle and District) when asked to sum up the standard of bitches in the afternoon in one word used only three letters: "Wow".

He and co-judge Mark Milburn MH (Stoke Hill and North Dartmoor) found only eight hounds that had what they termed major faults all afternoon, but were clear that the overall bitch champion Brighton, Storrington, Surrey and North Sussex (BSSNS) Standard 14 stood out from the crowd.

This lovely little bitch by Sandhurst and Aldershot Wimbourne 10 had huge show ring presence, moved beautifully and quite rightly beat the doghound champion to take the overall championship title.

Mike Lefroy, joint-master of the BSSNS beagles, was ringside and jubilant when his hounds took first prizes in both the unentered with BSSNS Comic – sired by last

year's Peterborough Champion Beagle SHND Commander 12 – and the entered bitch with Standard 14.

The Stour Valley not only took first and third rosettes in the restricted entered bitch, but also took a sound third place in the unentered bitch with their Swallow by their own Slingshot 09 out of Womble 10. It was good to see this pack and the Catterick, who travelled down from North Yorkshire, in the ribbons.

The Royal Agricultural College (RAC), though out of the ribbons all day, produced a lovely couple for the couples' class. RAC Wheatabix and Whipcream 13, by their Builth champion Charlton 08, won them a well-deserved trophy, but the Eton were in the ribbons sufficiently again in the afternoon to take the overall points class ahead of the Old Berkeley.

The new rings at Peterborough, no longer covered except this year by grey clouds, remained dry until the very last class of the morning, but their position in close proximity to the foxhounds, surrounded on three sides by trade stands and in front of the Vice Presidents tent on the fourth, meant that the show had a much more cohesive structure and provided a far wider audience for all the outside rings. There was much to like about the fresh layout.

The new team at the showground have put much thought and effort to this year's event. Inevitably there were a few snags and hiccups, but they must be congratulated on a hugely improved experience for all. Our thanks go to the whole team.

## TALKING POINTS

### Young hunters award

The Association of Masters of Harriers and Beagles (AMHB) Young Hunters Award 2015 went to Toby Every. He enthusiastically helps his father David – huntsman at the Park Beagles – and holds hounds for his father in the show ring throughout the summer.

### Vote-OK gets the thumbs up

AMHB Chairman Max Rumney presented George Bowyer, National Director of Vote-OK with the Mid Essex Salver for his work mobilising the rural community during the recent election campaign.

## RESULTS

**Beagles: doghounds (A I Jackson, K J Price MH), unentered.** – 1, Old Berkeley Mussel (Murcot 11-Posey 07); 2, Eton College Blarney (Radley College Taunton 08-Blanket 13); 3, Eton College Blenheim (Radley College Taunton 08-Blanket 13-Cocoa 10). **single entered.** – 1, Christ Church & Farley Hill (CC&FH) Valour 14 (Ampleforth Vanquish 08-Tasty 11); 2, Eton College Windsor 13 (Sandhurst & Aldershot Wimbourne 10-Cobweb 09); 3, Park Actor 14 (Mulberry 08-Ascot 09). **single entered (no height restriction).** – 1, Palmer Marlborough Dancer 14 (Palmer Milburn Vintner 07-Damsel 08); 2, Park Rustic 13 (Walbrin 09-Remedy 10); 3, Newcastle & District Goblin 14A (Prophet 07-Maryboro Farmers Graphic 11B). **restricted entered.** – 1, Radley College Dillon 2015† (RAC Charlton-08 Disco 08); 2, Per Ardua Darius 12 (Warwick 02-Dashwood 04); 3, Radley College Digger 2015† (Warwickshire Tailor 05-Tandy 04). **couple.** – 1, Eton College Wallace 12 (Brighton & Storrington Villain 02-Whisper 07) & Spicer 14 (BSSNS Sportsman 07-Vintage 12); 2, Per Ardua Factor 14 & Famous 14 (Dawlish 07-Oakley Foot Follow 10); 3, CC&FH Standard 13 & Streamer 13 (Hero 07-Sugar 09). **two couple.** – 1, Eton College Wallace 12 (Brighton & Storrington Villain 02-Whisper 07) & Spicer 13 (BSSNS Sportsman 07-Vintage 12); Viscount 12 (Brighton & Storrington Villain 02-Whitewash 07) & Blarney (Radley College Taunton 08-Blanket 13); 2, Old Berkeley Mulligan 11 (Musket 02†-Wanton 05), Murdoch 13 (Mustard 03-Farthing 04), Mursley (Mulligan 11-Pleasure 11) & Mussel; 3, Eton College Windsor 13 & Wisdom 13, (Sandhurst & Aldershot Wimbourne 10-Cobweb 09), Blenheim (Radley College Taunton 08-Blanket 13) & Tarka 13 (Cracker 05-Stoke Hill Tangle 09). **stallion hound.** – 1, Eton College Viscount 12 (Brighton & Storrington Villain 02-Whitewash 07); 2, DNS Windsor 11 (Chatsworth 2001-Radley College Whinny 07); 3, Radley College Dado 08 (Whiplash 04-Damsel 04). **veteran.** – 1, Old Berkeley Farrier 07 (Famous 02-Muffle 03);

2, Newcastle & District Woldsman 09 (Warrior 02†-Destiny 04); 3, Radley College Dado 08 (Whiplash 04-Damsel 04). **ch.** – CC&FH Valour 14; res. – Old Berkeley Farrier 07. **bitch hounds (R M Gibson MH, M Milburn MH), unentered.** – 1, BSSNS Comic (Stoke Hill Commander 12-Stammer 11); 2, CC&FH Trifle (Radley College David 12-Tactless 11); 3, Stour Valley Swallow (Slingshot 09-Womble 10). **entered.** – 1, BSSNS Standard 14 (Sandhurst & Aldershot Wimbourne 10-Stammer 11); 2, Old Berkeley Garlic 14 (Gander 04-Musty 07); 3, DNS Wagtail 14 (Newcastle & District Grafton 08-Winter 11). **restricted entered.** – 1, Stour Valley Widgeon 14 (Slingshot 09-Worthy 10); 2, Catterick Grettie 14 (Pistol 09-Airedale Gretchen 05); 3, Stour Valley Wanton 13 (Bolebrooke Tandem 10-Womble 10). **couple.** – 1, RAC Wheatabix & Whipcream 13 (Charlton 08-Wholesome 09); 2, Eton College Vintage 12 (Brighton & Storrington Villain 02-Whitewash 07) & Banquet 12 (Brighton & Storrington Villain 02-Dummer Barmald 02); 3, DNS Ticket (Limpet 12-Tyler 10) & Truelove (Wyre Forrest Pilgrim 06-Truffle 11). **two couple.** – 1, Old Berkeley Fancy 13 (Stowe Factor 05-Fantail 07), Music 13 (Mustard 03-Farthing 04), Muffin 11 (Mustard 03-Wallflower 05) & Relish 12 (Dummer Renegade 09-Muzzle 01); 2, BSSNS Canvas (Stoke Hill Commander 12-Tandem 11), Stardust & Standard 14 (Sandhurst & Aldershot Wimbourne 10-Stammer 11) & Stammer 11 (Brighton & Storrington Villain 02-Spellbound 07); 3, Eton College Whitewash 07 (Surrey & North Sussex Whittler 01-Party 02), Vintage 12 (Brighton & Storrington Villain 02-Whitewash 07), Banquet 12 (Brighton & Storrington Villain 02-Dummer Barmald 02) & Blanket 13 (Blackthorn 08-BSSNS Vital 11). **brood bitch.** – 1, Eton College Vintage 12 (Brighton & Storrington Villain 02-Whitewash 07); 2, DNS Winter 11 (Chatsworth 2001-Radley College Whinny 07); 3, Eton College Blanket 13 (Blackthorn 08-BSSNS Vital 11). **points class.** – 1, Eton College; 2, Radley College. **ch.** – BSSNS Standard 14; res. – Old Berkeley Garlic 14. **supreme ch.** – BSSNS Standard 14.



The Eton College beagles are in the ribbons, taking the overall points class ahead of the Old Berkeley, who also had a great show





Best in show: Ross  
Hulcot 13 takes the  
harrier championship title

## Harriers

WITH only 10 packs of stud book harriers in the country (seven of which were showing) the breed faces huge challenges in avoiding inbreeding, writes *Matthew Higgs*.

Most packs, therefore, are experimenting with outcrosses to a variety of other hound breeds, which has led to many developing a distinct type. This can prove a challenge for judges asked to compare them in the show ring.

An added complication this year was the addition, in some classes (as unfortunately only two West Country harriers packs were forward), of hounds from that separate breed that compete biennially at Peterborough.

Tim Easby, director of the Hunting Office, and Ollie Dale MFH (Ludlow), who previously hunted the Granta Harriers, judged the doghounds. The Holcombe took the unentered dogs with the distinctive black and tan Daystar, the first of their

many placings with hounds sired by High Peak Batman 10. Waveney Lancaster was second, well shown by new huntsman Reuben Kench.

New master Simon Dunn produced Ross Hulcot 13, an athletic true stud book harrier, to win the entered dog class. He was eventually doghound champion and best in show. The Holcombe took both second and third place.

The North Norfolk – the only pack of West Country harriers hunting outside Devon and Somerset – were the only entry in that breed's unentered class.

They had to settle for third, though, in the entered class behind the Taunton Vale's larger Badger 12A and Hornet 14, shown enthusiastically by huntsman Wayne Gregory. These two went on to stand champion and reserve in their championship.

Last year's champion Holcombe Barrister 12 led in a one, two, three for that pack in the stud book stallion hound class. In the West Country equivalent, the

Taunton Vale triumphed with their Barrister 12A, who was the West Country champion in 2013.

David Wallace presented the trophy to the winner of the next class for appendix C hounds (those at the first stage of an outcross) – appropriately enough to Taunton Vale Bowler 09C by a foxhound from his late father's pack Exmoor Boxer 04.

### Chaffinch on song

IN a combined couples class, the Holcombe beat the Dunston's entry into second place with the Taunton Vale third.

### RESULTS

**Doghounds (TR Easby and OM Dale MFH)**  
**single unentered stud book.** – 1, Holcombe Daystar (High Peak Batman 10-Diva 10); 2, Waveney Lancaster (Rockwood Lancer 10-Harebell 09); 3, Holcombe Dashwood (High Peak Batman 10-Diva 10). **single unentered west country.** – 1, North Norfolk Reubin (Lifeguard 12C-Laughter 10A). **single entered stud book.** – 1, Ross Hulcot 13 (High Peak Quantum 10-Happy 11); 2, Holcombe Charger 11 (Monarch 06-Aldenharn Chestnut 04); 3, Holcombe Danger 14 (Domino 07-Rockwood Laughter 10). **single entered west country.** – 1, Taunton Vale Badger 12A (Cotley Banker 07-Laurel 09B); 2, Taunton Vale Hornet 14 (Hargan 11A-Minehead Worship 11); 3, North Norfolk Heydon 12A (Modbury Hamilton 08B-Fetlock 08A). **stallion hound stud book.** – 1, Holcombe Barrister (High Peak Batman 10-Comedy 06); 2, Holcombe Domino 07 (Vale of Lune Chancellor 96-Cheerful 01); 3, Holcombe High Peak Batman 10 (Badger 04-High Peak Query 07). **stallion hound west country.** – 1, Taunton Vale Barrister 12A (Cotley Banker 07-Laurel 09B); 2, North Norfolk Heydon 12A (Modbury Hamilton 08B-Fetlock 08A). **appendix C.** – 1, Taunton Vale Bowler 09C (Exmoor Boxer 04-Gable 06C); 2 & 3, High Peak Gallant 14C and Galway 14C (Damien 11-Scarteen Gothic 10(U)). **veteran.** – 1, Holcombe Crawley 09 (High Peak Cracker 04-Diamond 07); 2, Dunston Waveney Farrier 06 (Famous 02-Quarrel 03); 3, Holcombe Crosby 09 (High Peak Cracker 04-Diamond 07). **couples.** 1, Holcombe Barrister & Drummer (High Peak Batman 10-Diva 10); 2, Dunston Stanley 13 (Chaplain 08-Satin 08) & Belton 13 (Granta Barclay 08-Cotton 09); 3, Taunton Vale Banwell & Badger 12A (Cotley Banker 07-Laurel 09B). **stud book ch.** – Ross Hulcot 13; res, Holcombe Charger 11. **west country ch.** – Taunton Vale Badger 12A; res, Taunton Vale

James Andrews MFH (South and West Wilts) and Matthew Higgs MH (Trinity Foot and South Herts Beagles) sorted out the bitches in deteriorating weather, giving the stud book unentered class to the Holcombe's Chaffinch, a daughter of Batman. Again the Waveney were second with Lancaster's sister Languish.

Nigel Cox produced High Peak Argue 11, a beautifully constructed bitch, to win the entered class and she became the eventual stud book champion. The fluid Pendle Forest and Craven Perfect 14B by the West Country Cotley Saddler 08C, a very different type and champion at Harrogate the previous week, was second and reserve champion, and won the under 19ins class.

The North Norfolk won the West Country class with the lissome Lapwing 12B and she went on to be that breed's bitch champion.

There was a great cheer for Easton Countess 06, winner of the brood bitch class, shown by master Alun Thomas.

The High Peak took the appendix C class with Carbine 13C out of foxhound Worcestershire Careless 10 before the Holcombe stormed both the couples and group classes with more of Batman's progeny. A great day with all the packs entered in the ribbons. **H&H**

Hornet 14. **bitches (JPG Andrews MFH & MJT Higgs MH).** **single unentered stud book.** – 1, Holcombe Chaffinch (High Peak Batman 10-Chatter 11); 2, Waveney Languish (Rockwood Lancer 10-Harebell 09); 3, Holcombe Disco (High Peak Batman 10-Diva 10). **single unentered west country.** – not contested. **single entered stud book.** – 1, High Peak Argue 11 (Arkwright 05-Query 07); 2, Pendle Forest and Craven (PF&C) Perfect 14B (Cotley Sadler 08C-Destiny 09); 3, High Peak Arrow 12 (Argent 05-Sharon 08). **single entered west country.** – 1, North Norfolk Lapwing 12B (Dunston Limerick 08C-Fever 07); 2, Taunton Vale Landacre 14A (Langford 09B-Havoc 11A); 3, North Norfolk Lichen 12B (Dunston Limerick 08C-Fever 07A). **19ins stud book.** – 1, PF&C Perfect 14B (Cotley Sadler 08B-Destiny 09); 2, High Peak Arrow 12 (Argent 05-Sharon 08); 3, Holcombe Barley 12 (High Peak Batman 10-Comedy 06). **brood bitch stud book.** – 1, Easton Countess 06 (Cromwell 00-Aldenharn Quality 00); 2, Taunton Vale Waitress 12A 9???Cotley Warrior 04-Wilmer 08B); 3, Easton Cornflower 13 (Granta Smolten 07-Countess 06). **brood bitch west country.** – not contested. **appendix C.** – 1, High Peak Carbine 13C (Danny 10-Worcestershire Careless 10); 2, Taunton Vale Feather (Founder (U)-Beswick 10C); 3, High Peak Captive 13C (Danny 10-Worcestershire Careless 10). **couples.** – 1, Holcombe Barley 12 & Chaffinch; 2, High Peak Argue & Arrow 12; 3, North Norfolk Lapwing & Lichen 12B. **group.** – 1, Holcombe Daystar, Dashwood Chaffinch & Barley 12; 2, Easton Active, Actress Actor & Acorn 14 (Granta Smedley 07-Granta Accent 10); 3, High Peak Argue 11, Arrow 12, Question & Quirky (Damien11-Quality11). **stud book ch.** – High Peak Argue 11; res, Pendle Forest and Craven Perfect 14B. **west country ch.** – North Norfolk Lapwing 12B; res, Taunton Vale Landacre 14A. **best in show.** – Ross Hulcot 13.



The North Norfolk Harriers – the only pack of West Country harriers hunting outside Devon and Somerset – take the West Country bitch championship with Lapwing 12B



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# 7 steps to installing your dream arena

Deciding to invest in an arena is an exciting but daunting prospect. **Sarah Radford** picks out the key points to consider before taking the plunge

## 1. Location

IF installing an arena will be part of a bigger equestrian build, consider the whole layout upfront.

“You don’t want to compromise on the best solution,” advises Charles Britton, who runs the 36-year-old equestrian facilities company of the same name.

“Authorities are typically not keen for facilities to sprawl over too large an area, so putting it nearer to existing facilities will always make it easier to secure support,” he says.

While hedgerows and trees can provide shelter from prevailing wind, most installers advise steering clear because of the problems created by falling leaves and roots — while planners also object to the impact on mature trees.

Soil conditions can also be a consideration.

“An arena can be built on almost any ground, but if there are difficult conditions — for example if it’s rocky or boggy — then it is going to need more investment in either equipment or materials, so if there is an alternative position, consider it,” advises Charles. “Similarly, if you can’t get at least eight-wheel tipper lorries to the site, costs will be greater for smaller lorries or re-handling of materials.”

“Don’t worry too much about earthworks,” notes Total Equestrian Construction’s Steve Keen. “People are concerned if they have a slope that it will be expensive, but usually it’s the cheapest part.”

## 2. Size

THE most popular arena size is 40x20m, while those dedicated to dressage may opt for a 60x20m layout. For jumping arenas, extra width is recommended.

“Even 40x25m makes a difference to where you can site jumps, so I always advise people to go for the extra five metres if they can,” says Steve.

Charles Britton also suggests being clear on how the arena will be used.

“Some uses are better served by another, separate facility. If you do a lot of lungeing, the arena can potentially be harmed by intense, concentrated activity. You may be better off having a separate lungeing arena, perhaps making the main arena a bit smaller to fund it.”

## 3. Base and drainage

THE base is unquestionably the most important aspect of an arena build. If it isn’t constructed properly, the





Going round in circles: a new arena requires several decisions regarding size, location, surface and fencing – all of which will be dictated by its intended use and, of course, your budget

arena surface will never perform as intended and pooling water and soft spots will result.

“When you build an arena, only the surface and the fencing should need changing when they reach the end of their life expectancy, nothing else,” says Jackson Arena’s James Alford.

Different installers have different approaches to the structure of drainage — and it is an area for the expert to advise — but don’t skimp on stone or membranes.

“The key issue is hard limestone for the drainage network. It’s clean and it keeps the drains clean,” says James.

Leisure Ride’s chief executive officer Ross Hemming agrees: “You want the stone to be as hard as possible — limestone or granite work best, and it needs to be evenly compacted.” Having a suitable top membrane is also important to prevent puncturing.

“We recommend a minimum of 300g per square metre Newton tear strength,” Ross adds.

#### 4. Surfaces

WITH such a wide range on offer — and many differing opinions as to what works best — choosing a surface can be a minefield.

Should you opt for woodchip, PVC, rubber-mix or sand and fibre?

“It is the one question that everyone gets hooked up on, yet it’s just a part of the whole decision process,”

says Charles. “We would always stress though, don’t compromise on the rest of the structure to install a top-price surface — it won’t work.”

For most people, the primary factors influencing surface choice are budget and the level and type of use.

If you want to get a feel for the type of ride you are looking for and what would best suit the requirements of your discipline, try to see a surface in work rather than just viewing samples.

Most people installing an outdoor arena opt for a sand-based surface, and Ross has some basic advice: “The sand is most important thing. The surface will always ride deep if it’s wrong. You need angular, high-quality silica sand, not round grains. Damp binds the angular grains together.”

“Good” going on natural turf is considered the best surface for a horse, and this is what additives to sand are trying to mimic.

“Fibres of the right consistency will emulate turf’s root structure,” Ross explains.

Sand and rubber is a popular budget surface, whereas at the other end of the spectrum there is wax.

Wax surfaces were pioneered by Martin Collins Enterprises more than 30 years ago and are designed to provide the most consistent ride — although with greater capital outlay.

“Wax makes a surface behave as though it’s wet and minimises dust. It also repels water, which makes the arena less likely to freeze,” says Martin’s son Nicholas.



“It gives you finer control to create the ride you want — a surface should have controlled movement, balancing hoof stability and support with ‘give.’”

It is wise to remember that the “perfect” surface arguably does not exist and that maintenance will always be key.

“Everybody wants a surface that you don’t have to maintain, that doesn’t freeze in winter or need watering in summer,” adds Ross. “You can’t have a very low maintenance surface without giving up something else — usually performance.”

## 5. Planning permission

MOST arena installation companies offer a “turn key” solution that includes handling the process for you. However, if you are going it alone, it’s useful to be aware of the issues that are most likely to concern your county council. The planning permission process can take up to three months.

“For equestrian builds, it’s worth contacting your local planning authority before doing anything else. They can tell you what is more likely to be acceptable,” says Gill Davies from Martin Collins operations.

One of the most common areas of compromise is lighting, which can pose aesthetic considerations as well as troubling neighbours.

“When siting an arena, it’s worth considering if there is traffic passing on a nearby highway that might prevent you installing lighting,” says Charles.

Modern LED lights mounted on the fencing rather than a pole can provide a work-around.

The location of drains is also important.

“Some councils want to know where the outfall is — it may be going into a ditch adjacent to a road or impacting a neighbour’s land,” says Ross.

When building in an area of outstanding natural beauty (AONB), aesthetic considerations can be of high importance.

“We currently have a build in Malvern where the client wanted light coloured sand but the council wanted the surface toned down,” says Ross.

“They didn’t want bright white in the middle of a green field. We managed to source sand from a different region — it was still silica sand but darker.”

## 6. Finishing touches

### FENCES

IF you are installing the fencing yourself, do the job properly to ensure longevity.

“We always concrete the fencing in because if you don’t, within a couple of years it will bow out and look horrible,” explains Ross. “We also re-treat the bottom of our fence posts with bitumin before putting them in the ground.”

Ross also advises not skimping on kickboards.

“We have stone that comes under the kickboard as they are more likely to rot in contact with soil. You need a height of 13-15in of timber to prevent surface loss,” he adds.

Charles Britton cautions against pitting budget against safety.

“Fence height is important — a flimsy fence that is too low can actually be a danger. We recommend 4ft 6in above the top of the riding surface, which is about 5ft 6in out of the ground,” he says.



When positioning mirrors, consider the direction of the sun when you are most likely to be riding, to avoid glare

### GATES

IF you want to practise dressage test riding, a central entrance on a kickboard arena might be the option for you. Otherwise, Ross advises that gates are best located offset or in the middle of a long side.

“We will never put a gate on the centre line. If a gate is left open, a naughty horse on the centre line will be out of the gate and gone. We also try not to put them in a corner for the same reason,” he says.

### MIRRORS

UNIVERSAL advice for installing mirrors is that in order to avoid glare, you should check the direction of the sun at the time of day when you are most likely to be riding.

They should be angled towards the ground and attached to a framework rather than directly to fencing.

## 7. The cost

UNSURPRISINGLY a number of factors will impact the cost, but as an example, Jackson Arenas quotes £19,500 plus VAT for a “budget” arena.

Most arena installation companies strongly caution against cutting corners, as many lower-cost fixes will only shorten the lifespan of the arena or take additional expense to remedy later on.

For those on a tight budget, there are some areas where you might make savings.

“Cut your size, not your budget,” suggests Charles.

“If you want a big arena but can’t afford it yet, and it is a site requiring cut and fill, have it levelled ready for a big arena and extend later.”

James Alford believes some savings can be made on the finishing details.

“The only place where you can really save money is fencing,” he says. “Sometimes it’s an option to use round machine posts, which are quicker to put in. A fence isn’t essential — you could just have kickboards.”

While it is better to install your chosen arena surface from the beginning — as taking up and replacing a surface results in added costs later on — if you are building on a budget, having a long-term plan to upgrade is a possibility.

“It might be worth putting up with a surface that isn’t your first choice for a couple of years,” advises Ross. “If you buy good quality angular silica sand to begin with, surfaces can be improved with the right fibre.” **H&H**

Picture by Charles Britton



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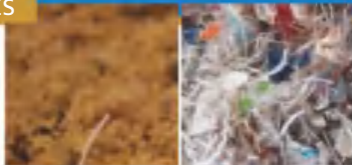
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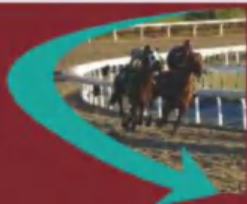


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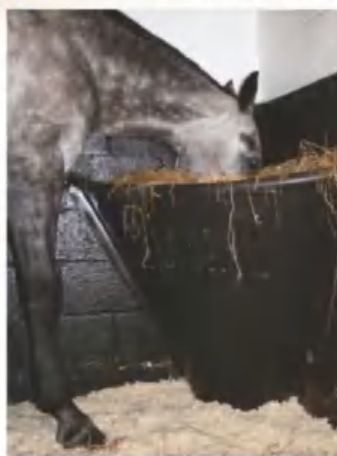
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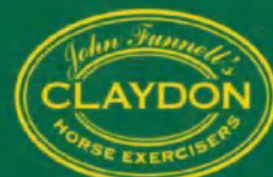
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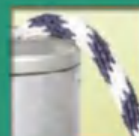


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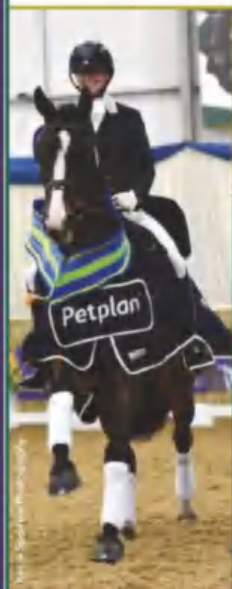
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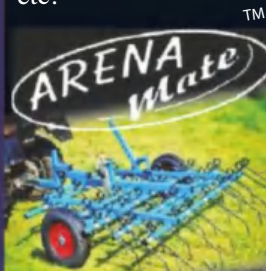


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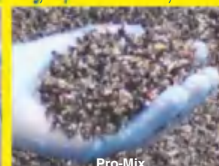
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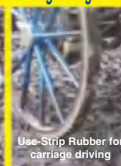
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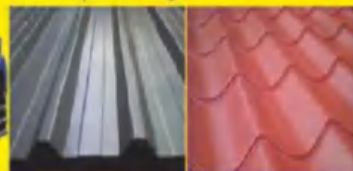
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Description: Mare who is super brave, jumps anything. We'll bred by esprilio. Scopey jump and very genuine. Won disco, ready for NC. 100% always. Always sensible never bucks/rears. Fantastic to hack & with traffic. **07892705086**  
liz\_forrester@hotmail.co.uk



### Superb hunter

Height: 17 hands Age: 12 years

Price: £5,000

Description: A fantastic hunter over any country, carried the whip in Ireland, bold as can be, no splints curbs, sound in wind, no vices, no sarcoids. Hacks alone fantastic. In traffic box etc, show jumps, will pop over a 130 course, Charlie has nice paces, and is a lovely boy to handle on the ground. Had the summer off now back in work ridden by a 17 yr old girl, getting fit for the coming season, open to vel. **07702367936** bonnyhale@hotmail.co.uk



### BD or Hunter

Height: 17hh

Age: 7yo

Price: £3,750

Location: Suffolk

Description: Handsome gelding by ars vivendi X furisto Big weight carrier who rides well on the flat, big floaty paces and a nice mouth, would make super dressage horse. Has jumped. Would also make a nice hunter. **07510257314**  
rikkidgradley@hotmail.co.uk



### Schoolmaster showjumper

Height: 17.1 hands Age: 11 years Price: £10,000

Description: Attractive 11 year old bay gelding 17.1h by OBOS Quality. Same home for years. Bought to event but jumping his real skill. Recently affiliated with BS and won at Newcomers and double clear Foxhunter in a handful of outings with scope to go further. Ability, looks and temperament to make a great hunter. Safe, reliable and laid back. Good to hack, in traffic, shoe, clip, etc.

**07977539317**  
sarah.j.lane13@gmail.com



## 15h 3ins - 16h 2ins

### 16.2hh, 4yo mare

Price: £3,500

Description:

Unbroken mare, out of Selle Francais mare by Challon z (Holstein x TB www.challonz.com). Good mover, talented, kind, sound and blemish free. Homebred & sadly for sale due to lack of time. **07973 863 356** zoequllett@hotmail.com



### CCI\*\* Eventer for sale

Age: 10 year old Price: POA

Description: Canadian Warmblood Gelding Out of Sire Tricolore (Dutch Warmblood) x Burghley (Westfalen) Orion was imported from Canada and was on the 2 Star Academy at Hartpury College. Has had multiple clear runs at CCI\*\* Level, while also competing in 1.20m show jumping, and Medium dressage taking home multiple ribbons. Orion would make a fantastic YR or Juniors horse. Call for more details, videos or pictures.

**07535616531**  
madipenfound@hotmail.com



### Diamond Lad II

Height: 16 hands 3 ins

Age: 12 year old

Price: £5,500

Description: Diamond Lad II (Boris), Irish Sport horse, bay gelding. This is a VERY sad and reluctant sale of this wonderful horse. Boris is a very kind and talented horse. He LOVES to jump, boris has a very big, bold scopey jump and knows his job. He is BSJA registered. **07825712811**  
jessicakenyon@live.co.uk



### Striking KWPN Gelding

Price: £5,500

Description: Black/Dark Bay KWPN Gelding By Ronaldo (Grand Sire Rubinstein) x Uthaliel. Fantastic temperament, with loads of character, has competed British Dressage with scores in the high 60%/70%, competed unaffiliated show jumping which he loves, and has jumped solid fences, but unfortunately I'm not as confident at jumping so have held him back. **07841902539**  
vanessa.taylor05@googlemail.com



### 15.3hh Hunter

Height: 15.3hh Age: 9yr old Price: £4,000 ono

Location: N Yorks

Description: 10 x Connemara Irish bred mare. Hunted 5 seasons, 4 in Ireland and last season with the Middleton and YSA South. Super talented mare really knows her job, proving to be brave and bold over big hedge / timber country. Very careful over a ditch and good in water. Such a confidence giver to a fence. Regularly hunted in the field with a teenager and has also field mastered. Has three correct rhythmic paces, a responsive ride on the flat and very careful to SJ. Competed SJ and XC. Good to do in all ways, hacks out alone / in company. **07951 740998**



### \*Must see! Eye catching 7yo

Height: 16.2hh Age: 7yo Price: £6,250

Description: Striking 16.2hh, Gelding. Careful scopey jump, currently jumping 1.05m with amateur jockey. Hunted last season, hacked out alone and in company. Lovely looking horse with flashy movement. Lovely natured horse, clean legged with no vices.

**07896 655 108**  
yasmine\_saunders@yahoo.co.uk



### Bright bay warmblood gelding

Height: 16 hands 3 ins

Age: 15 years old

Price: £2,250

Location: West Midlands

Description: Very handsome, good stable manors, good in traffic, shoe and box, would do prelim to novice in dressage, good hack. **07881922817**

### P-P/Hunt/Team Chase

Price: £4,000

Description:

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gomrchip@aol.com



### International show jumping potential

Height: 16.2hh Age: 3 year old Location: Yorkshire, Driffield

Description: Filly by REVIVAL (Int Grade A SJ Silver Disc Stallion) out of Int Grade A SJ mare Memories. Dam also Intermediate Eventer. Grand dam also Grade A SJ. Eldest progeny of dam selected for World Class Performance Programme. Sire competed up to 1.60m in both Speed and Grand Prix Classes. Unique opportunity to buy direct from the breeder. This filly has been well handled from birth, and is ready to start her education. **01964 535 406** or **07768 822 184**  
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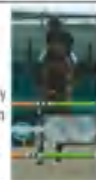


## Handsome Schoolmaster Superstar

**Height:** 15.3hh **Age:** 12 year old **Price:** £15,000  
**Description:** Well-bred kind 12yo 15.3hh imported KWPN, never lame, does EVERYTHING. Winnings at BD Elementary & BS Discovery. Champion Working and Ridden Hunter. Head-turner but safe confidence giver for nervous rider. I trust him with my kids in the stable, lorry, field, on a hack, on roads and in the ring. Push-button ride. Lives in or out, doesn't need a lot of work. All the talent but none of the trouble. Heart-breaking sale. 07971400153  
 semlawson@gmail.com

## Calova

**Height:** 16.2 hands **Age:** 13 years  
**Price:** £7,500 **Description:** Bay Gelding, Bred by Calvaro Z. Has been professionally produced as a youngster owned and ridden by an amateur for last 5 years. He is very honest and well natured. He took me from jumping 90cm to foxhunter and 130cm. He has qualified competed at all top shows including Blue Chip, Scope and Royal Windsor. He is a pleasure to hack alone or in company. He has full FEI passport with pink papers, he is unfortunately up for sale due to other commitments. 07815138549 charlotteq123@hotmail.co.uk



## Striking RID

**Height:** 16.2hh  
**Age:** 5 year old **Price:** £7,000  
**Description:** Iron grey gelding, Diamond Lad breeding Green book registered Irish draught. A real pleasure to own and ride with a lovely disposition, he is now ready to go on to any discipline. He is competing in prelm dressage, scores over 67%, show jumping at 90-95cm, scope to go much further, very careful and ready to affiliate, been placed in novice ODE, very bold across country and has hunted. 07792738077  
 nikki.ladybird@hotmail.co.uk



## By Bowlands Blackjack

**Height:** 15.3hh **Age:** 6 year old **Price:** £1,500  
**Description:** Black Gelding homebred Irish Draught X. Well handled young horse, lunging in tack, but not broken due to no fault of his own (no rider). Good to catch, lives in or out, lovely looking horse to make super show jumper/eventer. A nice project for a keen experienced rider who can give him the time he deserves. This horse is being offered at a very reasonable price as I do not want to see him start in a field for yet another year. 01332 552252 / 07748966235  
 anthonyash@btinternet.com

## 15.3h 4yrs dressage mare

**Height:** 15.3hh  
**Age:** 4 yo  
**Price:** £10,000  
**Description:** Rubin star N x Donnerhall/ Pik Bube, broken and ready to go on. Stunning mare. More details and video online. www.hillgrovestud.co.uk 07791883234  
 geluckman@gmail.com



## Junior team prospect

**Price:** £45,000 **Description:** Rockhill Dynasty Uncomplicated, talented and honest. Calm in the dressage, great jumper, knows and loves his job. Fit sound and ready to go on to Advanced or a perfect one/two star schoolmaster or an excellent JRN/Junior team horse. He is highly consistent with two wins at Novice, placed nearly every time out at Intermediate, clear cross country and inside the time at Osberton CCI two star last season. 07879842193 sophievandermerwe@me.com



## Not to be missed

**Height:** 16hh **Age:** 6 year old  
**Price:** £15,000  
**Description:** Homebred gelding by Ars vivendi. Competed Dressage with a successful 2nd at his first BD elementary. Good clean BS record. Has hunted and BE evented. A genuine easy ride that will go further. 3 lovely balanced elevated paces. A very easy ride who never hots up. Well established lateral work and flying changes. Huge scope. 01743296255  
 kteirish@hotmail.co.uk



## 2 young horses good jump

**Age:** 2 and 3 year olds  
**Price:** £12,500  
**Description:** 2 yrs old Breittling x Galoubet, u20ac5000, - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X9U1VYSCYNO https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VZFLJrgDQg 3 yrs 0031 654900190  
 info@jumpinghorses.nl

## Talented Grey Mare

**Height:** 15.3 hands  
**Age:** 8 years old **Price:** £4,800  
**Description:** Beautiful grey mare. She has competed up to discovery in show jumping but has scope to go much further. She has her 4 british novice qualifiers. She has BSJA winnings - £444 actual which is 133 points. Hacks out alone and in company. Good to box, shoe, catch and clip. This mare has no vices and would make a perfect horse for someone looking to compete and have fun with. 07712509858 gina.bunting@sky.com



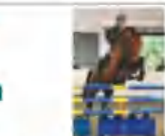
## 16.2 ISH Gelding

**Height:** 16.2 hands  
**Age:** 6 years **Price:** £3,500  
**Description:** Bargain price, Finlay is a bay gelding with fantastic potential. He has been out and competed both dressage and show jumping and has gone XC schooling never putting a foot wrong across all three. A big bold jumper with the potential to go far, due to family health Finlay has done nothing for the last 6 months and is now wanting somebody to bring him back into work and reach his full capabilities. 07949317646 badger.group@btopenworld.com



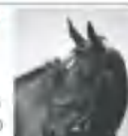
## Super Bay Gelding Hanoverian

**Height:** 16hh **Age:** 9yrs  
**Price:** £10,000  
**Description:** Show Jumping or Dressage. Very talented and good looking horse, with a lovely personality. He turns heads wherever he goes. He has a nice mouth and is absolutely beautiful to ride. Always in the ribbons and well schooled, he has bags of scope and is very careful. 07748 696267  
 mirandaviewing@gmail.com



## SJ / Eventer

**Height:** 16 hands 2 ins  
**Age:** 9 year old **Price:** £3,500  
**Description:** 16.2 dark bay 9yrs gelding TB. Sadly for sale due to rider going to Uni and unable to keep Z. George (Hard Tackle) is a lovely genuine ex racehorse who came off the track in 2011. Very easy to do 100% box/shoe/traffic/clip, hacks alone/company and travels with/without another horse with no problems. 07513440586  
 14085939@lreading-college.ac.uk



## Exciting Prospect

**Height:** 16.2hh  
**Age:** 4 yr old **Price:** £4,500  
**Location:** Swacliffe Park, Banbury  
**Description:** Bay mare by Foxcourt Fabeihalt out of a 3 star event mare 3 lovely loose paces with a bold scopey jump. Fantastic attitude towards jumping. Jumped small courses in the school and been XC schooling twice. Proving to be very bold and straightforward. 07875148942 katie-richards@hotmail.co.uk



## Dressage foals

**Price:** £4,000  
**Description:** Foals sired by Johnson, Sandro Hit, Franklin, San Amour, Tolegro and Sir Donnerhall. Out of top quality mares. Videos & photos available  
 07507 585 287  
 horses@faside-estate.com



## Fantastic All Rounder

**Height:** 16.2hh **Age:** 8yo  
**Price:** £5,500  
**Description:** Blue is a fantastic all rounder be it hunting or XC or SJ or just pleasure riding. Has the most fantastic temperament, lovely manners, snaffle mouth, perfect to hack alone or in company, no splints curbs blemishes sound in his wind. Open to vet. 07702 367 936 bonnyhale@hotmail.co.uk



## Fantastic Showjumper

**Price:** £18,500  
**Description:** Hugely talented mare for sale through no fault of her own. She has jumped competitively up to 1.30 level with very good results with non professional female rider. She also jumped the sunshine tour earlier this year with good placings in competitive classes at 1.20/1.30 level. She has endless scope and comes into a fence in a lovely rhythm and loves to do her job. 07842902709 dnhugill@hotmail.co.uk



## Showjumping/eventer filly

**Height:** 16 hands 1 in  
**Age:** 3 months **Price:** £2,800  
**Description:** Top bred sport horse to make 16.1hh dark bay filly. Born 2/5/2015. Very well put together filly with good strong straight paces. Bred for the sj world but would equally make a great event horse. Both sire and dam can be seen. Quirfimo x X Guidam. Sire competed GP at 1.60m and Dam competed 1.50m. 07986524936 darren.hardy30@yahoo.co.uk



## Ridgehill's Supernatural

**Height:** 16.1hh **Age:** 8 year old  
**Price:** £6,500  
**Description:** Lily is a 8 year old 16.1hh homebred polish warmblood mare. Double clears British Novice/Discovery for 2016. Jumped up to Newcomers with scope to go further. BS number for record 388735 Very honest, will jump off any stride. Good allrounder, cross country schooled, hacks alone or in company. 100% in traffic. Schools nicely and has done low level dressage, would event. 07863174673 nicola.nunan@hotmail.co.uk







# Illness cover up to 25 years of

For more information or to take out cover visit

## Chestnut colt

Height: 16 hands 1 in Price: £1,800

Description: Should make 16.1hh will make a great ShowJumper/venter. His sire (Quirfino z) was an international ShowJumper jumping 1.60m. He had numerous wins at Grand Prix and also came 4th in the hickstead derby. He has sired numerous sj and eventers that have already proven themselves competing at high level. His dam is an ID x to her sire was Miley (event stallion) she was showing great potential in the eventing circuit before sustaining an injury. 07986524936 darren.hardy30@yahoo.co.uk



## 3 yrs old painted mare

Height: 1.69m

Age: 3 year old Price: POA

Description: Super nice 3 yrs old mare by Arko x Goodtimes Hight 1.69m Very nice type, good mover and jumping. She broken under the saddle, very brave.

0031 654900190

info@jumpinghorses.nl



## Exceptional Riding Club Cob

Height: 15.2hh Age: 11 year old Price: £8,450

Description: Ideal Riding Club Event Horse. Winning prices this year eventing season and best dressage score so far is 25.75 Very easy going horse which suits any riding ability. 11 years old and fit. A lot of training put in and shows in his results. Every Judges favourite and receives attention everywhere we go. Very safe and kind animal and really takes care of rider. Go to Exceptional Cob on facebook to see him. 00353876446189 siobhanomeara2010@gmail.com

*'Always fresh and something new to see'*

*Julia from Wiltshire*

## Ultimate Schoolmaster

Height: 15.2 hands

Age: 8 year old Price: £8,000

Description: Top Schoolmaster Ultimate competition horse Irish Sports Horse, Black, Gelding, 8 years, 15.2 hands Top Schoolmaster Top competition horse He has 3 beautiful balanced paces, he always wins his dressage tests - Incredibly trainable temperament with breath taking paces. Working fantastically well at home, competing up to Novice dressage. 07929661075 hollygarrett6@hotmail.co.uk



## Bobby: 6-y-o, 15.2hh TB

Height: 15.2hh Age: 6 year old

Price: £8,500

Description: Quality dun gelding, Ta/Conn cross. Hunter trialed, pony clubbed and competed at many training shows. He has won and placed in riding club competitions, jumping 1.15 mtrs at present with ease. Bobby is a stunning looker and is showing great balance in all paces. He frequently delivers a good dressage test, and loves show jumping and cross-country. +353872095047 martintipperary@yahoo.ie



**14h 3ins -  
15h 2ins**

## Winning Machine On Top Form

Age: 11 year old Price: POA

Description: Warmblood gelding. 13 wins since April including 1.30's. This horse just loves his jumping and is amazing against the clock, covering the ground and turning on a sixpence. For someone who wants to compete and win, this is a fantastic opportunity to own a genuine star. In addition he is slunning with absolutely no vices. 01449616007 lwshowjumping@gmail.com



## Future event prospect

Height: 15.1hh Age: 5 yo

Price: £7,500

Description: Stunning skewbald gelding. Flash has 3 correct paces and a bold jump. He has done unaffiliated dressage and sj jumping double clears. He's has run in BE 80 this season. He has also attended pony club rallies and camp. Ridden by 13yr old girl. Good to do in all ways. Hacks alone and in company. 07739793814 obarratt1@gmail.com



## Allrounder/Hunter

Height: 15hh Age: 7 yo

Price: £4,950

Description: Chocolate Brown Gelding, Cob x TB, Great little horse for riding club activities has been to rallies and camp this year. Hunted all season after being professionally backed last summer. Good to shoe, box, catch, clip, traffic, lives in or out on fresh air. Good to hack alone and in company. Needs a competent rider to continue his education. 07727907455 sophyherridge23@hotmail.com



## Extremely Smart Chocolate Dun Gelding

Price: POA

Description: Well bred, stunning looking and movement. By Annaghmore Boomerang, Out of Ruby Rebel, Hunted last season with South and West Wilts and Mendip Farmers, stood on the buckle and went first or last. Has just started BE80T. Three lovely rhythmical paces, would excel in dressage. Hacks out alone or in company, good to do, trailer, lorry, shoe and clip. Jabs, teeth, back, shoe all up to date. Fit, ready to further his education. 07976700555 superstuart@hotmail.com

## Amazing 14.3 for sale

Height: 14.3hh Price: £5,000

Description: Perfect pony for competitive teen or small adult. Has hunted, evented and done all pony club activities. Not spooky out hunting and jumped everything he was pointed at without fault. Has done hunter trails and fun rides. Good doer lives in or out. Easy to shoe, travel, load and easy with the dentist. 07831560622 slodge@lodeservice.com

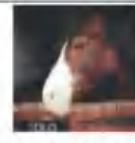


## Beautiful Welsh Cob

Height: 15hh Age: 6 year old

Price: £3,000

Description: Here I have my beautiful bay gelding welsh cob for sale. Iolo has lovely stable manners and is good to do in most ways. He catches and loads easily, however he doesn't like the noise of clippers so needs someone who is patient with this, none the less I have fully clipped him every year without a bother. 07816504115 sarahmulheran@aim.com



## Gorgeous Connemara x New Forest

Height: 15 hands 2 ins

Age: 8 year old

Price: £5,500

Description: Gorgeous dapple grey gelding, Connemara x New Forest. Ideal mother daughter share, competition horse, with fabulous jump. Good to hack alone and in company. Has done riding club, pony club and hunting. Very sweet to look after, no lumps or bumps, open to vet and good trial facilities. 07779639656 carolinepollitt@aol.co.uk

## Pretty TB Mare

Height: 15 hands 2 ins

Age: 4 year old

Price: £1,800

Description: 4 year old Stunning TB Mare Rising 15.2hh Good to load, catch, with Farrier, Clip Lovely temperament. Progressing well, nice paces and has popped over polls & starter jumps. 07859039564 ladyberti@gmail.com



## 15.2hh Loving & Talented

Height: 15 hands 2 ins

Age: 4 year old

Price: £2,500

Description: TB x Welsh Sec D. 4 years old. Dressage/intermediate potential. Straight moving/ lovely paces. No Vices/easy to do. No novices. 07968019285 1984lina@gmail.com





# age

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## Unbroken 2 year old TB

Age: 2 year old Price: £625

**Description:** Super sweet 2 year old gelding. To make a nice size TB when fully grown. He wintered out last year but is also very happy stabled. Has been bitten but not broken. Bought as a job lot of foals and not left the farm since. No known vices. Comes with clean passport so can race/point/event/polo/hack All vacs/worming/tarrier up to date. 07950876414  
livestock@allthingsruraltd.co.uk



## Irish Sports Horse

Price: £2,950

**Description:** Quality Irish Bred mare by harlequin Du carel Dam Connemera faithful colours, Very Flash type lightly backed, then turned away, this mare is a blank canvas to bring on to any sphere to compete in, Can be vetted, Easy to Box, Shoe and Clip Just been shod ready to go! With Green book.

07478711745

jpl422111@gmail.com



## Fantastic Hunting Pony

Height: 12 hands Age: 14 year old Price: £1,000

**Description:** 12hh Welsh Section A, 14 yrs, bay gelding. We have had Storm for 8 yrs. Loves hunting, jumping sizeable hedges and timber with the Monmouthshire and Ledbury. Regularly attended Pony Club and local shows, frequently in the ribbons. He is not a novice or nervous ride as he can be strong, however for the right jockey he is lots of fun. No vices. Lives in or out, never sick or sorry. Sadly outgrown.

07734396987

saraherbert@me.com

## Smart-looking NFxID

Price: £2,500

**Description:** Lordy a is clever, friendly little horse with lots of personality. Has happily competed in unaffiliated S.J. XC and dressage, attended RC rallies, fun rides and camps. He thrives on interesting work, but doesn't get silly if not ridden for a few days and likes to hack in company. Good to shoe, box and clip; a good doer with no vices. 07950757249  
karen\_saben@blueyonder.co.uk



## Quality Irish COB

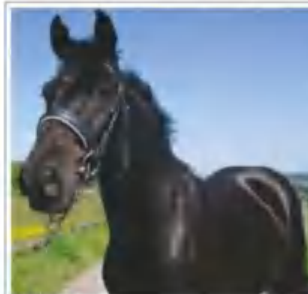
Age: 4 year old

Price: £1,850

**Description:** Quality Irish bred, red and white. Quiet to ride, box, clip and shoe. this Cob has manners to burn. Old head on young shoulders, very sensible in every way. Ideal mother and daughter share. Can deliver! Please no texts or withheld.

07525651835

akalisa@hotmail.co.uk



## Outstanding Black Gelding

Height: 14 hands 1 in Age: 8 year old Price: £4,800

**Description:** 3 big paces, with a trainable brain Caradog (Beau) ideal BYRDS or a small adult dressage prospect. BD Novice, Qualified Welsh Champs, Pet Plan Novice ticket 2015, always in the placings, he will get you noticed! Done PC activities, Xcountry, jumping. Hacks, loads, snaffle mouthed, easy to do in all ways. Comes with a wardrobe.

A real must see! 07921386813

semplevictoria@yahoo.co.uk

## Perfect allrounder

Price: £2,000

**Description:** Beautiful, perfect all rounder Irish sports mare. Has competed in cross country, show jumping, working hunter and has also hunted in Ireland.

01229778064

yvetteliney@hotmail.co.uk



# 60%

of H&H readers own 2 or  
more horses

Horse & Hound Insight Survey, Nov 2014



## Mother's Dream - Perfect allrounder/pony club pony

Price: £4,750

**Description:** One of the most saddest decisions I have had to make. Andrec Monte Carlo Successful show pony qualifying Royal International. 3rd at Equifest in the show pony final behaving beautifully in a very busy evening performance. Won and reserve show pony champion at South West ponies champions. Brilliant allrounder who loves jumping. Would make a superb nursery stakes pony or fun all round pony club pony. Snaffle mouthed.

07970281520

hevalewis44@googlemail.com

## Hunt/Hack Gelding

Height: 14.1hh Age: 9yo

Price: £2,500

**Description:** ISHx skewbald gelding. Good to shoe, clip, etc. Vacs and teeth up to date. Has done PC activities and camp. Hacks alone and in company, or lead off another horse. Hunted last season with the Cottesmore and Beivort. Easy to keep, lives in or out. Mannerly and sweet natured but hopelessly outgrown. Cubbing fit.

07864 706963 sharon.jowers@btinternet.com



## Mothers dream 14.1 Skewbald

Height: 14 hands 1 in

Age: 8 year old Price: £5,500

**Description:** Family friend, confidence giver and performer. Taken inexperienced 10 yr old to PC Area Eventing & Dressage - Bomb proof and reliable. Good to catch, clip or shoe. Hacks out alone or in company, exceptionally safe. Teeth, back vaccinations etc., up to date.

07989858787



## Scope Qualified

Height: 14.2hh

Age: 7 year old

Price: £8,000

**Description:** Mare. By renowned stallion Puisance. Has just competed in her first newcomers, gaining a double clear and placing. Sold with qualification to scope. Has huge potential and scope to go further. Good to shoe, box and hack. Forward going ride with masses of scope.

01743296255 kteish@hotmail.co.uk



# 14h 2ins & Under

## 14.2hh Event/ Competition Pony

Height: 14.2hh Age: 7 year old Price: £9,000 ono

Location: N Yorks

**Description:** Stunning 7yo Reg Connemara by Earl Of Newbridge. Super talented, bold and genuine mare. Placed BE90s, schooled BE100 & Novice XC. Placed PC Open OGEs, WHPs, M&Ms, SJ to 1.10m. Qualified NSEA SJ Champs 2015, done PC inc camp, won many dressage prelim & Novice. Won County WHPs, Qual. BSPS, NCPA. Quiet to do in all ways, snaffle mouthed. Loves to compete, has enjoyed excellent start to BE, ideal FEI prospect. 5\* competitive home only please. Videos available, no txts please. Home priority. 07951 740998



## Lovely looking tri coloured mare

Height: 14 hands

Price: POA

**Description:** Cob x for sale 14hh for sale due to no fault of her own needs someone experienced as she is green, she is used to dogs and machinery and loves being pampered. 01691774176  
amy-williams2011@hotmail.co.uk



## Competition Pony by LABA

Height: 14.2hh

Age: 4 year old mare

Price: £3,000

**Description:** Suit competitive Pony Club home/small adult. Lovely temperament & very trainable. Not to be missed! No novices as this is a very nice young pony!

+447815740052

amandamills2009@hotmail.co.uk





BUYING TIP  
#5



# Take a trainer or and get some video

For more tips and advice

## 148 jumping pony

Height: 14 hands 1 in  
Age: 4 year old  
Price: £3,000

**Description:** To make top jumping pony. Huge scope and super careful. Will jump big tracks without a doubt. She's seriously talented and ready for bs. Been to training show. Easy to do and a pleasure to ride.

07892 705 086  
liz\_forrester@hotmail.co.uk



## Brilliant PC Pony

Height: 13.2hh Age: 13 year old  
Price: £2,500

**Description:** Fantastic second pony for sale. Billy is a full up 13.2hh appaloosa few spot gelding. Although Billy is a super all-rounder, he particularly enjoys dressage and qualified for the Dengie Pony Club Winter League Novice Dressage competition in 2015 as well as representing local Pony Club in the Area Dressage competition.

disma@btinternet.com



## Fabulous Norfolk terrier boy puppy

Price: £550

Location: East Sussex

**Description:** Born and raised here, pictured with his mother 'Queenie'. Healthy, sweet temperament and sound in all respects.

01323 870657



## Puppies for Sale

Price: £700

Location: Crawley

**Description:** Pointer puppies, Male & Female, liver/white black/white, Affectionate cuddly pointer puppies, girls and boys. Ready now. K.C. registered, wormed and inoculated. Paper trained. Mother and show champion father can be seen. Holidays honoured. Ideal family pets or loving companions. Breeder since 1979. Permanent help and advice given. Sue.

01293 871204 or 07881620670



## Registered Welsh Section

Age: 4 year old Price: £1,850

**Description:** Lynbrie Merlyn has good bone and is a straight mover with a lovely step. Green, but willing with a great attitude to work. Successfully shown as a 3 year old. Now 4, he is showing great potential as a show/dressage/WH pony. Must be sold as no rider at home. Currently ridden 4/5 days a week. Offers considered.

07958397035 vale-f@btconnect.com

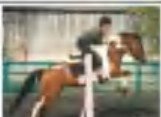


## Perfect Event Pony

Height: 14.2hh Age: 10 yo  
Price: £2,500

**Description:** Mare by Golden Heights. Talented jump, lovely paces. Suit competitive PC home. Good in all respects. Great event potential. Wormed & injections up to date. Recently seen by sports physio and dentist. She is a lovely mare who is easy on the ground-good for farrier (she's barefoot), dentist, clip and loads into anything! 07794668182

bertie@hotmail.com



## Pure breed American Bulldog Puppies for Sale

Price: £750 **Description:** Beautiful pure breed American Bulldog Puppies National Kennel Club papers with amazing bloodlines - Alan Scott/2019s Crusher, Hines Bishop, Hines Snowbird. Mum and grandad can be seen. Sire has many champion wins. They have come from a large litter of 14 who are extremely healthy pups and sociable with people. 07595731666 amyphotog@hotmail.co.uk



*"Well... I have to say Horse & Hound online ads really are the best for response! I need a PA to take all the calls! 3 put on at 10am - I'd had over 35 emails/texts/calls by the evening!"*

Ellen Blackburn (09/07/2015)

## Tricolour Mare

Height: 14.2hh  
Age: 7yo  
Price: £2,000

**Description:** Tansycroft Sweet Sensation 'Kitty', Tricolour, Cob X Warmblood mare by the KWPN. Stallion Tansycroft Toastmaster. CHAPS reg.

07780 900 327 amymaestro@hotmail.co.uk



## 14hh coloured cob

Height: 14 hands  
Age: 4 year old  
Price: £2,350

**Description:** Miracle - Gelding. Good to box, shoe + clip. 3 good paces. Bomb proof in traffic. Hacks alone and in company. Snaffle mouth. 07714784460 mikerhodes1974@live.com



## Youngstock Under 3k

## Appaloosa colt foal

Height: 15hh  
Age: 1 month  
Price: £600

**Description:** Well spotted, nicely put together strong colt foal to make 15hh. Colt & filly siblings available, photos at www.penpontponies.co.uk

0156686617 clare.smith1@hotmail.com



## Dogs

## Lurcher pups

Price: £350

**Description:** Rough coated bred from top racing and showing lines that excel in the field and have excellent temperaments dam british supreme champion 2011, pups are wormed, fied and microchipped, both parents can be seen.

07950403650

lurchers25@googlemail.com



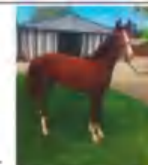
## Horses For Sale

## Stunning Chestnut Filly

Price: £1,250

Location: Cheshire

**Description:** Stunning SPSS filly by Jonkers Metyo and Run the Gauntlet. Fabulous showjump / Intermediate show hunter but with her breeding will excel in any sphere. Good to handle. Must be seen. 07803874201 / 07730371992 garethbarry6@hotmail.co.uk



## Pointer Puppies (English)

Price: £750

**Description:** Top quality pointer puppies, excellent bloodlines, L/W and B/W dogs. Will be kennel clubbed registered, insured, wormed etc. Reared in home, both parents superb natures. The sire is show champion Mill Point Top hat n+ Tails. Top Stud dog 2014. Dam also from show winning lines. Mum and several relatives can be seen. Ready to leave 7th August.

01388 747602



## Just Over From Ireland

Height: 16 hands

Age: 6 year old

Price: £6,000

**Description:** 16 hands 6yrs roan ISH gelding has competed successfully in training shows HT, WH. And is a brilliant hunter. Part exchange considered. 07878673624



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## Stunning 16.1 Irish gelding

Height: 16.1hh Age: 6 year old Price: POA

Location: Hertfordshire

Description: Sire young carrabawn (ID) dams bloodlines go back to ben purple and pride of toames (ID). This is a real quality 6 year old; he has three excellent paces and fantastic freedom of movement. He is jumping around a course of coloured fences and has been schooled over cross country jumps. Hacks out alone or in company. Carlow shows great ability in everything he does and has a great future ahead of him. For sale on behalf of a client. **07530167414 (Colum)** or **01279718939 (Yard: 7am - 6pm)** No email or text.

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Price: From £1,250 per pair

Location: Sussex

Description: Dutch warmblood mares with foals at foot. **07939163712**

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## Eye catching bold and friendly KWPN filly

Price: £3,000

Location: South West

Description: 04.05.2013

by Amoureux. Elevated paces and lovely temperament. Video available. Also a Wish upon a Star colt 12.06.2013.

**01548 821019**

[katharine.johnston@btinternet.com](mailto:katharine.johnston@btinternet.com)



## James

Age: 4 year old

Price: £1,250

Location: Sussex

Description:

4yo gelding

Frisian x Dutch Warmblood. Broken this year and going well.

**07939163712**



## 16.2 hh Dapple Grey

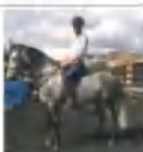
Height: 16.2hh

Age: 6 yrs

Price: £5000 o.n.o

Location: North Yorkshire

Description: Irish Sports Gelding. Classed as a middleweight this horse has a promising future as a hunter or a good all rounder. He has a good jump over xc and show jumps. Hacks out alone or in company. Good to do in all ways and is quite a laid back character. **07967 891 365**



## Ambitious young rider prospect

Age: 14 year old

Description: For Sale, 14yo

International 1.50m Grandpre mare.

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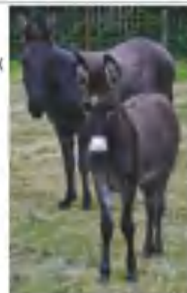
## Donkey

Location: Sussex

Description:

Jenny donkey with Jenny foal at foot, with other donkeys available.

**07939163712**



## Potential PC Eventer/Show Jumper

Height: 15hh Age: 6 yrs

Price: £4000 o.n.o

Location: North Yorkshire

Description: Bay Gelding 3/4 TB Sire by Court Crooner. This is a lovely, little horse who has loads of potential either as a teenagers eventer or PC area show jumper. He has presence about him and good movement enough for a dressage test. This horse would suit a competitive home and rider. **0798 266 7571**



## A perfect pair!

Age: 5 and 6 year old Price: £1,000 buys both, or £650 each.

Description: Two adorable registered coloured Snetlands. The mare is 5yrs and the gelding is 6yrs. Both are ridden and handled daily by young children. They will stand for hours to be groomed, jumped on bareback, tied up to absolutely anything and led everywhere including my house. They are quiet to catch, box, farrier and in the stable. Both are happy to wander around the yard and graze on the lawn. Definitely no laminitis/sweet itch or other health issues. It would be amazing to think that they could find a home together. **01873 890298 (Mons)**

## Wanted Irish sport Horses

Warmbloods or chunky thoroughbreds, project not objected to, must be sensibly priced.

**07878673624**

**HORSE&HOUND**



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01568 780 869 [ruth.bashford@btinternet.com](mailto:ruth.bashford@btinternet.com)

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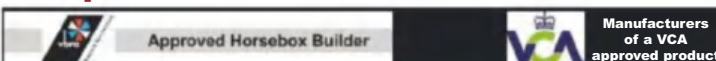


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**Guide £850,000**

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# The horse that made me

**Geoff Billington** celebrates the old-fashioned schoolmaster Talk Of The North, who was named after a Manchester nightclub



**A**FTER leaving school, I went to work for David Bowen as a groom. David rode horses for nightclub proprietor Joe Pullen, who owned Talk Of The North, a horse he named after his nightclub in Manchester.

The horse started his career under Mark Hussey — who went on to become a famous wrestler — before being given to Graham Fletcher to ride.

Graham and Talk Of The North won a lot of classes, but Graham had young horses coming through, so Joe gave the ride to me as a schoolmaster.

When I was 18 in 1973, I competed Talk Of The North at my first international show in Holland, where we won the puissance and the grand prix. The following year,

I went to Olsztyn, Poland where I was number five in the British team, and when we went back in 1976, I jumped in my first Nations Cup.

I also won my first class at the Horse of the Year Show with him — a bareback speed class. I beat Harvey Smith and German rider Hartwig Steenken, who had won the World Championships in 1974 at Hickstead.

Talk Of The North was quite old-fashioned and more of a stuffy cobby sort than a blood horse.

He wasn't very big either at only 15.3hh, but he was a stepping stone to competing on the international stage and gave me lots of experience.

I rode him until he was retired at 18, after which he lived out his years in the field. **H&H**

**‘Talk Of The North was more of a stuffy cobby sort than a blood horse’**



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